

Gc
929.2
St131s
1212264

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01393 5686

n

1754
To J. Whitten Station.
Mar 3d 1928- ~~Norman V. Stafford~~

GENEALOGY AND
BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCH

OF

THE
STAFFORD FAMILIES

OF

OHIO AND INDIANA

H. W. Stafford



Back of seal - \$17.50

1212264



HORACE W. STAFFORD

PREFACE

For some years I have been interested in the Genealogy of the Stafford Families and had in view the drafting of a family chart of those who came to Ohio and Indiana during the early settlements of these States; and starting with that purpose later the suggestion arose that a brief biographical sketch of some of the members of the different families might be of interest to their descendants, I have undertaken the task of mentioning those of whom I have knowledge or information.

I realize the fact that the public will be interested in but few, if any, of those mentioned, but this booklet has been written for the members of the large Stafford connection who wish to preserve for their posterity a brief history of their ancestors and the relationship of the different families. But few have a record of official position or military fame, and no one, rank of heraldry; yet title or rank alone, without other qualifications and traits of character, contributed little towards establishing civilization in the early settlement of our State, compared with the courage and determination of the men and women who endured the severest hardships in the early settlements of the different localities of our Commonwealth.

Ours is a heritage from our ancestors of good citizenship, industry and honesty. We can point with pride to their record in the fact that they were noble men and women contributing much to the advancement of civilization and welfare of the states and communities in which they settled:

“It is better to be meanly born and good,
Than one unworthy of his blood,
Though all thy walls shine with thy pedigrees,
Yet virtue alone marks nobility.”

I do not claim an ancestry free from criticism but truly can

we say that noble characteristics mark our lines and we find among them many men and women possessed of sterling qualities. The critic will no doubt find some errors in this booklet, while my aim has been to include all who are within the fifth generation, yet some no doubt, have been omitted, due to the fact of want of knowledge or information which I have diligently sought.

I have referred to some localities and incidents not strictly part of a biography but to some extent connected with the Stafford families, which I trust will relieve the reader of the monotony of names and dates incident to all biographies and family lineage.

I acknowledge my gratitude to Martha J. McNeal; Mrs. Laura C. Scarff; Mrs. Mary M. Deaton; Miss Nell J. Stafford; James R. Stafford, of Albany, Indiana; Mrs. Ella Eckdall of Emporia, Kansas; Miss Juliette M. Cox, stenographer, and others, for the assistance they have given me.

Springfield, Ohio.

Date: March 1st, 1927.

HORACE W. STAFFORD.



ORIGIN OF FAMILY NAME

The family name of "Stafford" originated at the close of the Anglo-Saxon period. It is derived in all probability from the Anglo-Saxon "Stat," meaning town and ford; the town being located at a point by a river where there was a ford. The original name was spelled "Statford," but gradually the "t" was changed to "f" and thereafter the name was called "Stafford".

It is said that when William the Conqueror crossed over to England he took with him one Robert de Torri and his brother, all of whom were descendants from the same ancestor, but the relationship is not definitely known. However, the two brothers were engaged in the Battle of Hastings which was fought in 1066, and for Robert's valiant services in that battle he afterward received a large number of castles and manors in certain parts of England.

Robert, on coming into possession of these castles and manors, went to live at what was known as Stafford Castle, and by appointment became governor over the town of Stafford, and in honor of the town, he took the name of Stafford which was the origin of the family name of the Staffords. It therefore follows that about the year 1066, or shortly thereafter, the family name of Stafford originated. A man at that time, if a property owner, was called by the name of the place where he lived; if not a land owner, by his trade or calling, that being the custom in England in those days.

Later the "de" was dropped, so that the de Staffords or de Statfords of England became the Staffords of that country. The County of Staffordshire, England, of which the Town Stafford was one of the principal, had been for many years the subject of much controversy concerning the power the Druids had over the country of Staffordshire. It was a town of considerable note and history records it as being the site of many battles. Mention is made of it in Domesday Book as a city paying nine pounds in customs.

There were many prominent people belonging to the Stafford family in the early history of England; many of them being noted for their ability as statesmen and writers and holding high positions. Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was the most powerful noble in England. Shakespere referred to him as "The deep revolving wily Buckingham". King Richard became afraid of him when Henry raised a rebellion, and as a result thereof, Richard had him beheaded. Ralph Stafford rebuilt the castle of Robert de Torri during the reign of Edward III. It is said of him that he was a great soldier and that his descendants became the most influential men of

their time. Humphrey, who was a partisan of Henry VIII; William Howard Stafford, who was an advocate of sound currency; Anthony Stafford, who was a writer of considerable note who wrote a book on the life of Henry, Duke of Buckingham.

It is said by one writer that a large family of Statfords some years later were located in Devonshire, England, whose name was originally spelled "Stowford", and were known as the Irish Staffords; later they dropped the "w" and substituted "f", and in time the "o" and substituted "a" instead, after which they spelled their name "Stafford."

A descendant of this branch of Staffords, who was a soldier, about the year 1200 went over to Ireland and for his services received a considerable estate about Wexford, a portion of the country conquered.

The Irish Staffords descending from him were said to be Catholics, but the Staffords who were descendants of Robert de Torri, afterward known as Robert Stafford, Governor over the town of Stafford, in Staffordshire, England, were Protestants.

We do not know whether any of the Staffords of whom we have direct knowledge and who later emigrated to America, are the lineal descendants of any of those mentioned, but it is fair to assume that those who came to America are of the same branch of Staffords who were located in Staffordshire, England, for we find throughout the history of the Stafford families who came to America, the familiar names of Robert, Joseph, James, John, William, Ralph, Anthony, and others that might be mentioned; later we know of one John Stafford who was born and died in Staffordshire, England, of whom many in Ohio and Indiana are lineal descendants.

The first lineal ancestor of whom we have any account is John Stafford, of Staffordshire, England. It is said that he was born and died in Staffordshire, but we have no date of either his birth or death. By some old papers handed down to Joseph H. Stafford, formerly of Casstown, Ohio, a small hamlet in Miami County, it discloses that John Stafford's wife's maiden name was Margaret Brunt. John was the eldest of his family. He had two sisters and one brother. The sister Maggie married James Welch and the other sister, Lettie, married John Gregg. The brother's name is unknown but mention is made in those papers that he died a bachelor.

John Stafford and Margaret Brunt Stafford had eight children, viz: Jane, who married Adam Johnson; Ralph, who married Jane Kane; Nancy, who married John Johnson; Thomas who married Barbara Irwin; James, who married Nancy Eaton; Edward, who married Margaret Eaton; Mary, who married James Robinson, and John, who married Elizabeth Fair, a widow.

Ralph, Edward and John were residents of Virginia at the dates of their marriages, but the residences of the other members of the family, at the date of their marriages, are unknown. No definite knowledge has been obtainable as to the relationship of Nancy Eaton who married James, and Margaret Eaton who married Edward.

It has been claimed by some that the Staffords who came to America are of Irish Nationality, from the fact that many of them emigrated from Northern Ireland. This fact is not sufficient to establish their nationality, for those who came to America are all descendants of John Stafford and Margaret Brunt Stafford who lived and died in Staffordshire. No record has been found of any of the Staffords or Stowfords leaving Ireland and locating in Staffordshire. The more reasonable view is that on their departure from England they first located in various places in Northern Ireland and later emigrated to America.

Again, throughout the entire family lineage we find few names, if any, which would indicate they are of Irish nationality.

In later years, after their arrival in Virginia, the family history discloses that John, one of the brothers, married Elizabeth Fair, who was of Irish nationality, and that George, a son of James and Nancy Eaton Stafford, married Catherine Fair, a daughter of Elizabeth.

No definite date is ascertainable when the Staffords emigrated to America, but from the best information obtainable, it was in the year 1785. With this company of emigrants came Elizabeth Fair, who was a widow at that time, and her daughter, Catherine Fair, a girl of 16 years. They were both from Enniskillen, Ireland, and of Irish nationality. Most of these emigrants on their arrival in America finally settled in Giles County, Virginia. Their journey to America was a long and tedious one across the mighty deep and at a date when improved vessels were unknown, yet nothing deterred them for they were bound for a state which at that time was considered the leading one of the Thirteen Original Colonies.

They were almost two months on this ocean journey. The exact place of landing is unknown, but generally believed to have been at Philadelphia. However, a paper written by Samuel McKinney Stafford, who was one of the best informed on the history and genealogy of the different families, states that they probably landed temporarily at Philadelphia and later located and settled in Giles County, Virginia.

The place of their first location in Virginia was on Walker's Creek. The County of Giles, being one of the small counties of the state, and while picturesque in some respects, was not one of the desirable counties in which to reside. The soil was not equal to that

of many other localities of the state of Virginia, and while it was productive to a certain extent, yet not to be compared with that of the fertile lands of Ohio. The mountains could be seen from their location, from which beautiful streams of water flowed; and the climate was fine, tempered by the mountains and surrounding hills, but, notwithstanding these natural advantages, many of the Staffords sought a country and place of habitation which gave promise of greater thrift and future accomplishments.

The Staffords of Virginia were planters and tillers of the soil and they prided themselves very much on the fact that they were of English descent. It is said that it was not unusual to hear the remark, "He is of a good family" or "He is a gentleman", and this same remark was often heard among the early pioneers of Ohio and Indiana. For state pride, none surpassed the people of Virginia.

There is no record of any of the Staffords being soldiers in the Revolutionary War with England. However, one descendant of George Stafford, Sr., who came from Virginia to Ohio, Mrs. Laura C. Scarff, of New Carlisle, Ohio, whose great, great grandfather was Samuel Mitchell, was a soldier in that great struggle of the colonists to free themselves of the English yoke. Mrs. Scarff and two others are the only ones of the great number of Staffords eligible to admission in the organization of "Daughters of the American Revolution".

During the time the Staffords lived in Virginia, the statesmen of that state practically dominated and controlled the politics of the United States, under the leadership of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and other prominent politicians of the day, who were known as Republicans, there being then two parties known as Federalists and Republicans.

The Staffords of early days were Federalists and although not prominent in political life, or office holders, they were connected with the party of Washington and John Marshall who stood for the Constitution and against the so-called states rights as free from the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

The political history of Virginia reveals many interesting events in the attempts of the party of Thomas Jefferson and his followers to control and dominate the governmental affairs of the United States. In those days, elections were held by the Judges of Elections representing the different political parties occupying a seat at a table and the voter orally announced his choice for the different candidates, when his vote would be registered by the judges as directed.

None of the children of John Stafford and Margaret Brunt Stafford came to Ohio, but all who emigrated to Virginia remained there. Some of the descendants of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton

Stafford were the only ones who came to Ohio, and some of the descendants of John Stafford and Elizabeth Fair Stafford came to Indiana and located near Crawfordsville.

John Stafford, a son of John Stafford and Margaret Brunt Stafford, of Staffordshire, England, married Elizabeth Fair, a widow. Her maiden name was Elizabeth Brown. She was a native of Enniskillen, Donegal Bay, Province of Ulster, Ireland. Her first marriage was to Robert Fair, and by this marriage, one child, Catherine Fair, was born. By her second marriage, there were born to them, the following children, viz: Thomas, John, Joseph, Margaret and a son who died during the voyage to America and was buried at sea.

John Stafford and wife, Elizabeth, with their family came to America in the year 1785 and located in Philadelphia, but soon thereafter, located at Mechinsburgh, Giles County, Virginia. Elizabeth died in 1828, and her remains rest in a country graveyard near where she lived. In 1839, John, her husband, died, and was buried at the same place, by the side of his wife. Elizabeth was a member of Wesleyan Connection and later of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Thomas, a son of John and Elizabeth Fair Stafford, was born in Enniskillen, Ireland, and came to America with his parents. He was then in his sixth year. He lived with his parents in Giles County, Virginia, until his marriage to Ruth Neel of the same County, until the year 1832, when he emigrated to Fountain County, Indiana. He lived near the town of Attica and died in 1844.

There were born to Thomas and Ruth, ten children, viz: Elizabeth; Lewis B.; John; William N.; Alexander; Minerva; Granville; Oscar F.; Mary A. Sharp and George W. Stafford, late of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

George W. Stafford married Rachael Stitt, a daughter of James Stitt, March 24th, 1842. Their children were: Charles W.; James T.; John M.; William A.; Sarah Alice; George W., Jr.; Robert Oscar; Charles O.; Eddie A.; Mary R., and Rachael E., being ten in number.

George W. Stafford resided in the old home near Crawfordsville, Indiana, until his death, and lived a quiet, upright and religious life, much respected by all who knew him. I did not know him personally, but my knowledge of him is somewhat extensive from information received from the older relatives of the Stafford family of Ohio, who frequently visited him and his family at Crawfordsville. He has many descendants located in various states; they are known as a family of good repute and quite active in the affairs of life.

FAMILY OF JAMES AND NANCY EATON STAFFORD

The next family of Staffords of whom the Staffords of Ohio are descendants, was that of James, who married Nancy Eaton. James was a son of John Stafford and Margaret Brunt Stafford, of England. He came to America with his brother John and others in 1785, emigrating from Northern Ireland. They had eleven children, viz: James, who married Sarah Hoge; Joseph, who married Mary Saylor; Nancy, who married Daniel Hoge; Catherine, who married William Mitchell; Edward, who married Kissiah Mitchell; Margaret, who first married Michael Williams, and secondly, married Isaiah Givens; George Stafford, Sr., who married Catherine Fair; Jane, who married Frederick Williams; Ralph Sr., who married Catherine Saylor; Susan, who married Ralph Stafford, and Thomas, who married Catherine Williams.

Little is known of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford. When they died or where they are buried, I have no knowledge.

Of the children of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford, five sons and brothers, viz: George, James, Joseph, Thomas and Ralph came to Ohio, and two of the daughters, Catherine and Nancy, also came to this State. The rest remained in Virginia. The brother Ralph, came first, a year or more prior to 1811, the exact year is unknown, but he came with a family named "Saylor" and settled on Indian Creek, in Miami County. He afterwards married one of that family, viz: Catherine Saylor.

The Stafford families had lived over twenty years in Giles County, Virginia, before they decided to emigrate and locate in Ohio. With the brothers and sisters, who came to Ohio in 1811, also came the children and family of those who were married, which made quite a large company.

The journey from Virginia was one of severe hardships and struggles. They brought with them a few cows, some farming implements, such as they were; flour, corn meal, beds, and bedding, which were all in covered wagons where they slept at night. The wagons were of the type often pictured in the travels of the emigrant to the Western country. They were large, high-wheeled wagons covered with canvass and usually drawn by four horses. The route they took from Giles County to Ohio is not definitely known but it is probable from the fact that the best roads of that day were by way of and along New River, until the latter was joined by the Gualey and became the Kanawha, and they chose this route; they then, no doubt, followed the Kanawha, and finally crossed the Ohio River at Gallipolis; thence to Zanesville; thence by way of Columbus to Springfield.

Upon reaching Clark County, they found their way across Mad River, over the hills and through the cuts and valleys, where they finally located in Pike Township, on the south half of Section 31, township 3, range 10 of the lands in what was then Champaign County, owned by George Stafford, Sr.

They crossed the Ohio River on the first day of October 1811, and reached their destination in Pike Township October 16th, of the same year, it being the 10th birthday of James C. Stafford, son of George Stafford, Sr.

In this company was also the daughter known in after years as "Betsey", her true name being Elizabeth. She rode a horse all the way from Virginia; George Stafford and his son George Jr., walked almost the entire way driving the cattle. On one occasion, before they crossed the Ohio River, at the close of a tiresome day's journey, they pitched their tent for the night, and built a fire, for the purpose of cooking the evening meal, when one of the company suggested mush and milk for supper, so they all agreed, and on that evening they had nothing but mush and milk. On another occasion when all their flour had been consumed, for several days they subsisted chiefly on sweet potatoes which they had brought with them; and the milk from the cows.

The place of locating was near where there is now, on the farm of Albert E. Stafford, evidence of a gravel pit, it being about ten rods directly west of the brick residence on his farm. For a number of years, a log house stood on this spot where they located, and until within the last twenty years, old apple trees aided in marking the location of the first log house built by George Stafford, Sr.

On their arrival on the 16th day of October, 1811, they immediately went in search of water. A small stream ran through part of the land on which George Stafford, Sr., was settling, which stream was only a few rods west of the spot where they pitched their tent and camped for the night. In the search for water, they went in the direction of a small stream, and to their delight, they discovered a fine spring just north of and adjoining the land of George Stafford, Sr. This land on which the spring was located, in after years, became the property of James C. Stafford, and at this date, is the property of the writer. The spring is still running with a fine flow of water and is one of the interesting objects of the farm.

William Mitchell, Daniel Hoge, and Ralph Stafford, who came with this company, located in the adjoining County of Miami, but George Stafford, Sr., and others of the Company remained in Champaign (now Clark) County.

Ohio had adopted its Constitution and was then a State to which emigrants were coming in great numbers. The emigrants were chiefly from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

OHIO

Ohio in 1810 was the thirteenth state in rank among her sister states. The mode of travel of the early settler was in covered wagons, traveling over difficult passes and roadways through the forests to the place of their final settlement.

The land was of fine quality, the titles good and cost but little per acre. The Staffords and Blacks became the owners of many quarter-sections of lands in Champaign, now Olark County.

The early settlers were possessed of little earthly possessions but were men and women of sterling qualities. They were friendly and assisted each other in the clearing of the land and erection of their cabins.

When the Staffords and Blacks first settled in this locality, the country was an almost unbroken forest. The mail was received only once a week, usually a paper published in Cincinnati, and in some counties a poorly edited paper at the County Seat. It took days and sometimes weeks for a letter to reach the settlers of Ohio from their friends and relatives left behind them in the State of Virginia.

The early settler was usually a good marksman and was always well supplied with guns and ammunition.

The Prairies of the great West had not been opened up and the emigration from the Eastern States at this time was chiefly directed towards Ohio.

The settler in Champaign and Miami Counties found his lands covered with fine timber and had this timber been spared and protected, on the lands settled by the Staffords and Blacks, the value of it today would be far in excess of the present valuation.

There were no markets in reach of the settlements of the Staffords and Blacks when they located in 1811, in Champaign and Miami Counties. Grain and fruit would hardly bear the labor and expense of delivering the same in market. The settler's chief source of obtaining money was by converting corn and grain into hogs, horses and cattle which had to be delivered usually at the market at Cincinnati and were driven on hoof to said City.

They made their own clothing and the spinning-wheel and loom were to be found in almost every household. The first duty of the settler was to provide himself with a log hut, usually consisting of one room only, with a loft for sleeping purposes. Some of these log houses had no floors but were of well-packed clay, while others of the better type had puncheon floors. The household utensils were few in number and of the crudest kind. Few, if any of them, were without whiskey; and drinking, but not to excess, was almost universal among the early pioneers of this locality.

Crimes of various kinds were rare in those days but when they found a thief in the community they were all in accord for severe punishment to the one who had violated the law. Horse stealing was looked upon in those days as one of the greatest crimes. A thief in the neighborhood aroused the entire community and caused many sleepless nights among the early pioneers.

In the early settlements of the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells they were quite vigorous in the defense of their opinions on political matters and manifested considerable interest in the politics of the day. They were extremely loyal to the government under which they lived, and when the War of 1812 broke out, they were ready and willing to contribute liberally to the maintenance and support of that struggle in favor of their country and state. It is estimated that in 1810 "the total inhabitants of Ohio amounted to only 230,760." "The total vote for governor in 1812 was 19,752."

In 1811, the population of Springfield was only about four hundred (400). The first Court of Common Pleas held in Clark County was on April 7th, 1818. The first settled minister of the Methodist Church in Clark County was Rev. Saul Henkle, who came to this county from Virginia in the spring of 1809, traveling on horseback with his young wife and child who was two months old.

The first settlement in Pike Township was by Samuel Black and Andrew Black, brothers, in 1806, who took up a section of land which they afterwards divided, Samuel taking the north half, and Andrew the south half.

The first settlement in Bethel Township, in which New Carlisle is located, was by David Lowry, which settlement was in 1795. He married Sarah Hamer, of Miami County, Ohio. They had four children: Sarah, Nancy, Susan and Elizabeth. The daughter Nancy married William Wilson; they were the parents of Mary Elizabeth Wilson, hereafter mentioned, who married James Rowland Stafford.

Sarah Hamer Lowry, wife of David Lowry, died in 1810, and David, in the year 1811, married Mrs. James Hodge, whose maiden name was Wright. The grandchild, J. Edwin Lowry, is still the owner of the farm which was settled by David Lowry.

The settlement of the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells in Pike Township was within a radius of about three miles of the Village now known as New Carlisle.

NEW CARLISLE

The Village of New Carlisle was first known as "York", and was laid out in 1810. In 1812, the first plat containing a few streets only, running north and south, constituted the hamlet. The name of the hamlet was later changed to the name "Monroe".

The little Hamlet bore the name of "York" until January 28th, 1828, when it was changed to "Monroe"; and later incorporated under the name of New Carlisle by an act of the General Assembly, January 6th, 1831. In 1810, when known as York, the hamlet was located on a plateau west of the main portion of the present Village. Near this hamlet, on the farm now owned by the heirs of J. Quincy Smith, was an Indian village known as Chinchinna, which farm still retains that name.

A beautiful stream known as Honey Creek half encircles the village of New Carlisle. In the year 1785 Daniel Boone and David Hamilton Morris, Sr., crossed the Ohio River for an exploration of the country which included what is now known as Clark and Miami Counties. While making their journey through the wilderness of this portion of Ohio, they discovered a bee tree on the banks of a creek and when felling the tree to obtain the honey, contrary to their wishes, the tree fell into the creek, so the stream was named "Honey Creek" which is the origin of the name of this stream which half encircles the village of New Carlisle. On the same trip, while crossing a stream, they saw the first Indian and so they named the stream "Indian Creek"; said stream being only a few miles west of New Carlisle, and where later, settled some of the Staffords who came from Virginia.

It would require an artist to picture the beauty of the country surrounding the Hamlet of Monroe, when the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells first settled in Champaign (now Clark) and Miami Counties. Within the half circle of Honey Creek was a broad plateau, heavily covered with fine timber such as oak, walnut, hickory, ash, sugar and poplar of great size and beauty. To the North for miles extended this dense forest of the different varieties of trees. Interspersed throughout this forest, wild flowers bloomed in profusion and with the splendid quality of soil, in many places underlaid with fine quality of gravel and limestone, made that part of the country interesting to the emigrants in the early history of Ohio.

To the East of New Carlisle, for more than one mile distant from the town, was low, level, bottom land with a soil not surpassed in fertility by any community in America. Across the sparkling stream of Honey Creek to the South, within a half mile of the village the elevation of the land disclosed to the observer extreme beauty in the landscape which seemed to be ordained by the Creator

as the last resting place of the many noble men and women who settled in this picturesque locality, and made it one of the beauty spots of the state not excelled by any other.

As the traveler approaches New Carlisle from the East on an elevation far above the village his eye beholds the broad, fertile valley with soil productive in the highest degree, and looking to the West, North and South, he views the marvelous beauty of the landscape surrounding this village, and gazing upon this beautiful picture one cannot help quoting a writer's description of his native village:

“There lies a Village in a peaceful vale,
With sloping hill and waving woods around
Fenced from the blasts. There never ruder gale
Bows the tall grass that covers all the ground;
And planted shrubs are there, and cherished bowers,
And a bright verdure born of gentle showers.”

One mile northwest from the little hamlet was a body of water located in a deep valley, known as Sliver Lake. This lake is fed by springs of purest water. Surrounding this lake the landscape rises to extreme heights all covered with the finest verdure of grass and forests of great beauty. This peaceful lake, with its surrounding forest, has become a place of noted resort.

The village of New Carlisle has, by reason of its progressive citizenry, far surpassed any village in this state. The beautiful streets with overhanging maple trees, residences of modern type, splendid churches, fine schools, finely equipped stores, banks and other business institutions coupled with the business enterprises of its citizens and its literary organizations, has made it a place of much reputation and interest to those who chance to visit it and enjoy the hospitality of its citizens.

This Village was the chief trading place of the Staffords and Blacks, who, in the year of 1811, first located within a radius of a few miles of the hamlet of York, (then its name) and in later years became the place of residence of many of their descendants.

By the adoption of the Constitution in 1802, religious liberty and protection of property rights were guaranteed to the inhabitants of Ohio, which, with the splendid quality of soil and natural resources was the chief inducement for emigration of the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells to this State from Virginia. They regarded Ohio, and especially the locality in Clark (then Champaign) and Miami Counties, the finest country and most advantageous locality in which to settle and make their future place of habitation.

Game of all kinds was plentiful and the streams abounded in fish which in the early days of Ohio contributed much to the early settlers toward a subsistence until the land could be cleared and various crops produced.

In the early part of the Eighteenth Century, this locality was largely occupied by the Red Man and traces of their location are still apparent from flints, tomahawks and utensils used by them when they inhabited this picturesque territory and hunted the deer and game of various kinds along the clear streams and in the beautiful forests.

Those who came from Virginia to Ohio and settled in the wilds and primeval forests of Clark and Miami Counties, for several years endured the severest hardships of the pioneer. In 1811 there were no roads, nothing but paths through the dense forests from one cabin to another. They found few spots of land that were not covered with forest trees or undergrowth, so the land had to be cleared before crops of any kind could be raised. The road or trail to New Carlisle was at times almost impassable, owing to the character of the soil; the rivulets and streams of water running across the trail. The ox team was in common use and a man who possessed a team of horses, a wagon and a few farming implements was considered well equipped to provide for his family in those early days.

The location and country in Clark County far surpassed that of the country and locality of those who settled in Miami County. These early settlers resided at a distance of about two miles apart, and the social intercourse among them was limited to meeting each other but few times each month. The log house and surrounding land were to the settler his all, and his chief thought was to improve his land and provide for his family.

The history of the Stafford, Black and Mitchell families discloses that each family possessed a Bible, with other books of a religious character and weekly received a newspaper which was delivered at the town of Monroe, later named New Carlisle.

The early pioneers of the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells were a devoutly religious people, and in 1812, they formed what is known as the McKendree Society. Most of them were Methodists, however, Samuel Black, who was one of the first settlers in Pike Township, was a Presbyterian. In later years a number of the Staffords also became Presbyterians, but the Mitchells have always been Methodists.

The hardships they endured for a number of years after they first arrived in Clark and Miami Counties never brought regret to them that they had emigrated from Virginia to Ohio. A comparison between the two localities, Giles County in Virginia and Clark and Miami Counties in Ohio, convinced them that their settlement in Ohio was a wise one. Notwithstanding the wooded condition of the country where they had settled, the soil and natural resources far surpassed that of Giles County, Virginia.

While their strivings were many and the hardships almost indescribable, yet they struggled on with brave hearts and a determination that strongly marked the character of those early settlers. The little log cabin they had built was to them their castle and place of rest and contentment. In the early history of Clark and Miami Counties a "log cabin song" was frequently sung, which describes the character of these buildings and their occupants better than I have words to express. This song written by J. R. Crane of Clark County, was as follows:

"I love the rough log cabin;
It tells of olden time.
When a hardy and an honest class
Of freemen in their prime,
First left their fathers' peaceful home,
Where all was joy and rest,
With their axes on their shoulders,
And sallied for the West.

Of logs they built a sturdy pile,
With slabs they roofed it o'er;
With wooden latch and hinges
They hung the clumsy door.
And for the little window lights,
In size two feet by two,
They used such sash as could be got
In regions that were new.

The chimney was composed of slats,
Well interlined with clay,
Forming a sight we seldom see
In this, a later day.
And here, on stones for firedogs
A rousing fire was made,
While round it sat a hardy crew
With none to make afraid."

THE FAMILY OF JAMES STAFFORD, SR. AND SARAH HOGE STAFFORD

James Stafford, Sr., was born March 17th 1778. He married Sarah Hoge, who was born February 11th, 1780. James located northwest of Silver Lake in Miami County, Ohio. He died December 13th, 1855. His wife died January 30th, 1842. They are both buried in a country graveyard known as "Saylor's" located in Miami County.

They were the parents of Joseph H. Stafford, who married Jane Black of Clark County, Ohio; Julia Stafford, who married Frederick Funston; Nancy Stafford, who married Mr. Jenkins; Elizabeth Stafford, who married James Andrew Warwick; Mary Stafford, who married John Dodson; William H. Stafford, who married Miss Baugh; and Edward Stafford, who married_____.

Joseph H. Stafford, who married Jane Black were the parents of Agnes Stafford, who died unmarried; Sarah Stafford, who married Dr. M. W. Hays, of Troy, Ohio; and William Stafford, an attorney by profession, and also a bachelor; each of whom are now deceased.

Joseph and Jane, upon their marriage, moved near Casstown in Miami County, Ohio, and located on the farm then owned by Mr. Stafford, containing about 400 acres where he built a substantial brick house in which he lived until the date of his death.

At the date of their marriage, Samuel Black and wife furnished them with some cooking utensils, a few rough chairs, a table, feather bed and a few other household articles with which to start housekeeping. Joseph was a very industrious and economical man and his wife contributed all in her power to accumulate wealth and improve the farm on which they had located. Joseph was a Republican in politics but took little interest in political contests. However, he always voted for the man he thought best qualified for the office.

After Joseph's death Jane and her daughter Agnes moved to the town of Troy, the County seat of Miami County, where they lived the remainder of their days. The daughter Agnes lived and died spinster surviving her mother and sister Sarah a number of years. The early years of the daughters, Sarah and Agnes, were years of hardship and servitude on the farm, the home of their parents.

No labor, however menial, was too hard for them to perform. They lived an upright and model life. Their opportunities for an education were extremely meager, however, they were well qualified to transact business matters with which they were connected. Sarah married M. W. Hays a physician by profession. He was exceedingly popular with his fellowmen, and represented his County in the Ohio General Assembly.

To Dr. and Mrs. Hays were born two children, viz: William S. Hays and Ollie Hays, a resident of Troy, Ohio. She is now the owner of a portion of the land where her grandfather and grandmother located.

The son, William Stafford, possessed a good education and was a lawyer by profession. He enlisted in the War of the Rebellion but ill health required his return to his native county where he died from tuberculosis. He was a fine violinist, and his violin is now in the possession of his niece, Miss Hays. He was a lawyer of some prominence and standing in the profession, but his enlistment in the army together with his ill health deprived him of any extensive practice.

Sarah Hays and Agnes Stafford lived a highly commendable life. They had many warm and intimate friends, and each died much respected and honored by all their acquaintances and relatives.

THE FUNSTON FAMILY

Julia Stafford, a daughter of James Stafford, Sr., and Sarah Hoge Stafford, was born September 15th, 1804, at the old Hoge homestead one-half mile from "Belle Hampton", near Radford, Virginia. Her first husband was Frederick Funston, of Donnelsville, Clark County, Ohio. He was accidentally killed in the year 1840 by a beam falling on him from a cider press. After the death of Frederick Funston, she married Giles Thomas. No children were born of this marriage. She died at Logansport, Indiana, on September 18th, 1880 or 1881, the exact date is not definitely known.

The father of her first husband was either Frederick or Paul, as he was known by both names. He was of Scotch-Irish descent and came originally from Ireland to Paris, Kentucky, where he resided for about one year and then moved to Donnelsville, Clark County Ohio, about the year 1807.

Julia and Frederick Funston had born to them seven children, viz: Paul, who married Elizabeth Lindsey of Iowa; James, who married Susan Rebecca Northcutt; William, who married Rebecca Black, and resided at Logansport, Indiana; Sarah, who married Mr. Krugg of Crawfordsville, Indiana; Eliza Jane who married Colonel A. M. Flory of Logansport, Indiana; Mary, who married Mr. Anderson of Logansport, Indiana; and Edward Hoge Funston, who married Ann Eliza Mitchell of New Carlisle, Clark County, Ohio.

The son, Edward Hoge Funston, was born September 16th, 1836 at Donnelsville, Clark County, Ohio, on the farm settled by his grandfather, Frederick or Paul Funston, in 1807. He married Ann Eliza Mitchell September 4th, 1861, at New Carlisle, Clark County, Ohio, in what was known as the "Mitchell House", and then owned by her father and mother, James Mitchell and Elizabeth Swiger Mitchell. This hotel is now known as the "New Carlisle Inn". Ann Eliza Mitchell was born March 28th, 1843 on a farm near West Charleston, Ohio, and died April 26th, 1917, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ella Funston Eskdall, of Emporia, Kansas. She was educated at Linden Hill Academy, New Carlisle, Ohio. Her husband, Edward Hoge Funston, also attended Linden Hill Academy, but later graduated from Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, receiving the honorary degree of Master of Arts, which was conferred upon him in the year 1861. He volunteered in the Civil War in the year 1861, entering the service the day following his marriage to Miss Mitchell; a coincidence followed by his son, General Frederick Funston who left for the Spanish-American War in the Philippine Islands the day after his marriage.

Edward Hoge Funston served four years in the Civil War as First Lieutenant of the Sixteenth Ohio Battery. After the War was

over, he, with his wife and two sons Frederick and James Burton in 1867, moved to Carlyle, Allen County, Kansas. He was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives and served during the session of 1870-1871 as Speaker of the House. He was elected as a member of the State Senate and re-elected, serving in that capacity during the years 1882, 1883 and 1884 as President Pro Tempore of that body.

Still other honors awaited him, and he was elected to Congress by the Republicans of the Second Congressional District of Kansas, in the year 1884, and continued to hold such position as member of Congress, until the year 1894.

He was one of the noted men of his state and was regarded as a man of fine judgment and marked ability.

Honorable Edward Hoge Funston and his wife Eliza Funston are deceased and buried at Iola, Allen County, Kansas.

Honorable Edward Hoge Funston and Eliza Funston had the following children: Frederick Funston; James Burton Funston; Pogue Warrick Funston; Ella Funston, who married Dr. Frank Albert Eckdall; Aldo, who married Maud Esse; and Edward Hoge Funston, Jr., who married Ruby Jackson. Another daughter and son were born to them, each having died in infancy.

The son, Frederick Funston, the only one of the children of whom I have any knowledge, and chiefly by his service in two wars, became a noted personage in connection with the history of our Country.

Major General Frederick Funston was born November 9th, 1865, at New Carlisle, Clark County, Ohio, in the "Mitchell House", heretofore referred to, and owned and conducted by his grandfather James Mitchell. In the year 1867, his parents moved to Carlyle, Allen County, Kansas, and with them came Frederick and his brother James Burton Funston. He was a studious lad and much interested in military literature while attending college. After arriving at the years of manhood, he crossed the Death Valley of California, and later spent two years in Alaska as a botanist representing the United States Government. He enlisted in the war for the freedom of Cuba from the Spanish yoke, and served four years as Lieutenant Colonel, fighting in the Cuban army against Spain. He was Colonel of the Twentieth Kansas Regiment and captured Amilio Aguinaldo, the leader of the Philippine Insurrection.

While stationed in San Francisco, California, awaiting orders to sail for Manilla, he met Miss Edna Blankart of the City of Oakland, California, and on the twenty-fifth day of October, 1898, he and Miss Blankart were married. On the 27th day of that month, he received orders to sail for Manilla on the Transport "Indiana". In his

book "Memories of Two Wars", he says, speaking of his marriage to Miss Blankart, "This is by all odds the smartest thing I ever did in my life."

I have no acquaintance with Mrs. Funston, yet from his reference to her in his book, and information from his relatives, she is evidently a woman of courage and culture and a worthy helpmate to her distinguished husband.

He captured Aguinaldo on the 24th day of March, 1901 and on the 28th day of that month, he sailed into Manila Bay with his prisoner and delivered him to General MacArthur. A review of his book describing the capture of Amilio Aguinaldo reveals a most interesting and tragic story. Aguinaldo was at the time located in a small town known as Palanan, on the Island of Luzon, near the northeast coast of the Island, and a place most difficult to reach, owing to the rugged and mountainous character of the Island.

The skill and ability of Major General Funston in the capture of Aguinaldo has not been surpassed or excelled by any detective, or General of any army in the history of the United States or any other country. A description of the route and tactics resorted to in planning the capture of Aguinaldo, as disclosed by the pen of Mr. Funston, reveals his ability as a detective and courageous officer who feared no hardships or perilous adventures to serve his Government in the capture of that noted Philipino, which, if accomplished, he knew would end the war.

A few days after his delivery of Aguinaldo to General MacArthur, he was commissioned a Brigadier-General in the regular army, by President William McKinley and later was awarded a medal by the Congress of the United States for his valiant services in the Philippine Islands. A few years later, President Woodrow Wilson commissioned him Major General of the United States Army.

His book, entitled "Memories of Two Wars" is replete with many interesting events, covering the period of his army life, and adds much to the history of this country in connection with those wars.

Major Funston died while in command of the United States troops, on the Mexican Border, February 19th, 1917, at San Antonio, Texas. He is buried in the Presidio Cemetery at San Francisco, California.

The descendants of James and Sarah Stafford are indeed remarkable families, ancestors of noted genealogy. I had no personal acquaintance with these families, but by information from relatives and acquaintances, I find they have been and are leaders, and prominent men and women of the state and communities of their residence. The records of Honorable Edward Hoge Funston and son

Major General Frederick Funston, is not surpassed by any other families to my knowledge, in the history of the entire Stafford connection; and is one that the descendants of James Stafford and Sarah Hoge Stafford may well be proud of and pointed to with pride by their descendants, however remote.

The writer has no personal acquaintance with the family of Nancy Jenkins; of Elizabeth Warwick; of Mary Dodsie; of William H. Stafford, or of Edward Stafford, and but little from friends and relatives, however, by information received many years ago, from Agnes Stafford who resided in Troy, Ohio, and who was a frequent visitor at the homes of those families, I know them to be families of good repute, honored and respected by relatives and friends. Agnes Stafford held them in the highest esteem, and always spoke of them in the highest terms of praise. She frequently referred to her pleasant visits among them and was exceedingly proud of them as her relatives and cordial friends.

NEW CARLISLE INN

The birth-place of Major General Frederick Funston makes historic the old "Mitchell House", now the "New Carlisle Inn".

It was built by Mr. John Hay in the year 1828, three years prior to the incorporation of New Carlisle. It is located at the intersection of the principal thoroughfares which pass through the hamlet, north, south, east and west. The old Bellefontaine Road passed by this noted tavern of early day. The stage-coach was the mode of travel and many were the visitors, by coach drawn by a four-horse team, who sought the shelter and entertainment always found at the old "Mitchell House".

The structure was partly of brick and partly of lumber. The handmade doors and mantles are still in evidence. Around the fireplace, on the winter nights, gathered the guests and told the story of their trials and experiences over the rough and muddy roads. The high-ball and cock-tail had not been introduced in the village, but whiskey was always at hand, and few, if any, failed to imbibe freely. So, as the evening hours passed there was much merriment among the guests and visitors as they sat around the old fireplace watching a three-foot log slowly being consumed and until the embers burned low. Near this fireplace hung two necessary implements, the flip-iron and the poker.

The news of the day was generally imparted by the visitors who came from different parts of the country and stopped at the inn for rest and refreshments. The violin was usually heard on the winter nights, giving cheer and merriment to the many guests of this ancient hostelry. The bar was the chief one of the hamlet, and the better element of the drinking class frequented this place to quench their thirst, stimulate their bodies and listen to the tales of the visitors and guests who came daily.

A retrospective view of this ancient inn reminds one of Longfellow's "Tales of a Wayside Inn":

"As ancient is this hostelry
As any in the land
Built in the old colonial day
When men lived in a grander way
With ampler hospitality."

The name of this tavern was changed to "New Carlisle Inn" forty years ago when Mr. A. M. Kissinger became the proprietor and, later, in the year 1892, the owner, and has operated it since that date with much more skill and creditable reputation than any of its former owners.

The bar has passed from the parlor-room, and the hilarity of early days is heard no more about this ancient hostelry. It has been,

for many years the center of social attractions where the guests of the occasion have enjoyed the hospitality of the host and his generous and courteous attention.

Noted has been this inn of later years by the dinners and social gatherings when the generosity of the host was much appreciated and made the occasion enjoyable, not soon to be forgotten. Its register discloses the names of men who have been president of the United States, Senators, Statesmen, Governors, noted lecturers, and others of national reputation, who have visited this noted inn, and been entertained by its proprietor and dined on appetizing food not surpassed in the land.

The hospitality of the host of "New Carlisle Inn" has extended to many, among whom the writer is one

"And here's a hand, my trusty fiere
And gie's a hand o'thine
And we'll tak a right guid Willie-waught
For Auld lang syne."

FAMILY OF JOSEPH STAFFORD AND MARY SAYLOR STAFFORD

Joseph Stafford, son of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford, married Mary Saylor of Miami County, Ohio. They had three children: James Stafford, commonly known as "Squire Jimmie;" George Stafford of Troy, Miami County, Ohio; and William Stafford.

James married Mary Forgy of Bethel Township, Clark County. The children of James and Mary Forgy Stafford were Elizabeth, Matilda, Caroline, Sofia and Margaret. They also had born to them Henrietta, Harriett, Joel and Beecher, each of whom died in infancy.

The children of Elizabeth and George J. Stafford were Joel Stafford, who married Mary Dunton; Emma S., who married Cyrus Black; Mary M., who married W. D. Deaton; and Anna who married William Sutton. Joel Stafford had one child, Clifford Stafford, who resides in New Carlisle, Ohio; and Anna Sutton had one child, Elizabeth Trostel, who also resides in New Carlisle.

James Stafford, known as "Squire Jimmie", during the early years of his marriage resided west of New Carlisle, in Miami County, Ohio, but during the later years of his life he was a resident of New Carlisle. He was a man of more than ordinary prominence, and for many years held the office of Justice of the Peace.

The daughter, Elizabeth Stafford, who married George J. Stafford, was a resident of Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. She and her husband, George, were the owners for many years of one of the most beautiful farms in that locality. On this farm were splendid buildings which still remain.

A beautiful peach and pear orchard, which furnished hundreds of bushels of fruit for many years, was the attraction of that neighborhood. George J. Stafford preceded his wife in death a number of years. His wife, Elizabeth, for twelve years, was totally disabled physically, and died on the homestead farm of James C. Stafford. They were much respected by the people in that community. Mr. Stafford was a stockman, and purchased nearly all the stock for sale within a radius of several miles of his residence. In those days his place of shipment was Osborn, Ohio, a town located in Greene County. He was also a breeder of pedigreed Shorthorn cattle, and manifested much interest in the breeding of good stock. He was interested in fine driving-horses, which was quite a fad in that day, and had a splendid race track on which to train them.

Their son, Joel Stafford, was a fine violinist, and he, with others later mentioned in this volume, formed the orchestra of Pike School District.

Emma S. Black and Cyrus Black, her husband, lived on a farm in Pike Township for many years. On the marriage of Mr. Black, his father conveyed to him 100 acres of land on which he and his wife erected the most handsome and substantial buildings found in the community. There were no persons living in that locality more respected and beloved than Cyrus and Emma Black. Their courtship began in old Pike Schoolhouse when they were in their teens, and if either ever had any other sweetheart, it was unknown to the community. Mr. Black was noted for his industry, uprightness and honesty. If there ever lived in that community better people than Mr. and Mrs. Black, I had not the pleasure of their acquaintance.

Their home was a welcome place to all the friends and relatives whether from Ohio or Indiana. Their later years were spent in New Carlisle where they had purchased a beautiful residence in which to spend the remainder of their days. But a short time after their removal to New Carlisle, Mr. Black departed this life and in about one year thereafter his wife followed him to the grave.

They were attendants of the Presbyterian Church and contributed liberally to the support of that Association. They had friends without number, and their departure cast a gloom of sorrow over their relatives and acquaintances both in Ohio and Indiana. They rest in the beautiful cemetery at New Carlisle where a handsome monument marks their graves.

Mary M. Deaton is the only survivor of her family. She resides in New Carlisle. Her husband, W. Dyke Deaton, was connected with the large family of Deatons who were members of the McKendree Society. He died in 1919.

Mary M. Deaton has always been active in religious and civic work, and like her sister, an attendant and member of the Presbyterian Church. In her younger days she resided in Pike Township and was one of the jolly members of that school and had as many friends, if not more than any other member of Pike School. She always took an active part in the exhibitions and was extremely popular in the social circle of that community. Parties, spelling matches and sleigh rides were in vogue in those days and on no occasion was she ever absent but always seemed to be lucky in having someone to escort her on the occasion.

During the long illness of her mother no one could have been more attentive to her while in her helpless condition. She manifests great interest in the welfare of the respective families and no one could be more helpful and willing to administer to their wants in sickness or distress. It is said that she has missed no meeting of the reunion of the Staffords and Blacks since its organization. She, too, sustains the reputation accorded her departed sister by her relatives and friends.

Anna Stafford, the other daughter of George J. and Elizabeth Stafford, married William Sutton. She died a number of years ago leaving a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Trostel. She was a fine performer on the piano and taught music for many years. For a number of years prior to her death, she was in ill health. She was an accomplished woman, sociable and companionable in the highest degree, and when she passed away friends and relatives lamented her departure. Her husband, William Sutton was much respected by the relatives and his acquaintances. His latter days were spent with his daughter, Mrs. Trostel.

The family of George J. Stafford and Elizabeth Stafford were for many years attendants at McKendree Church and among the leading members of the community in which they resided. They had many friends. When they resided in their old home on the farm it was one of the places where many gatherings and parties were held.

Matilda married John A. Collins. They were residents of New Carlisle. She had no children.

Caroline married Frank B. Jacobs, a resident of Piqua, Ohio. They had one daughter, Gussie Lowe.

Sophia married Isaac Freeman. They had the following children: Dayton, who died when a young man; Charles M. Freeman, who married Fannie B. Stafford; Walter Freeman, who married Lina Akers; Grace, who married Harry Tenny.

Margaret married John J. Mitchell. They had the following children: Marvin, Homer, Horace, Stanley, Roger, Reuben, Belmer, Elmer, Mary and Blanche. Margaret and her husband were residents of Miami County.

George P. Stafford was a resident of Troy, Miami County, Ohio. His first wife was Miss Elizabeth Pumphrey; his second wife was Mahali Ann Wright, and his third wife was Mary Melissa Durely.

The children of his first wife were John Stafford, Mary Stafford, and Mattie Stafford who married a Mr. Kable. The children of his second wife were Ella Stafford and Georgie Stafford. The children of his third wife were Frank Stafford, Virgil Stafford, and Hallie Stafford who married Dr. Edward Fuller of Dayton, Ohio.

George P. Stafford was a son of Joseph and Nancy Saylor Stafford; he was born in 1819 and died in 1893. The third child of Joseph, Hattie and Mary, which knowledge was very limited. Joseph married Harriet Steele. They had the following children: Eliza Inskeep; Henry K. Stafford; Archibald Stafford; Joseph Stafford (Commonly known as "Speck"); Hattie, who married Lewis I. Lowman and Mary, who married Andrew Fuller.

I had no acquaintance with the children of George P. Stafford and knew none of the children of William Stafford, except Joseph, Hattie and Mary, which knowledge was very limited. Joseph commonly called "Speck", married Abigail McAllister. She was a pupil in the old Pike School and one of the popular girls of the district.

Hattie Lowman resided in Pike Township. They had four children: Bert Lowman, May Lowman, Garret Lowman and Joel Lowman. They were exceedingly bright family. The son, Bert, was a fine mathematician and a splendid accountant. The daughter, May, was a beautiful girl and very popular in society. She married William Young of Dayton, Ohio.

FAMILY OF CATHERINE STAFFORD MITCHELL AND WILLIAM MITCHELL

Catherine Stafford, daughter of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford, married William Mitchell, February 11th, 1808. She was born in Ireland, May, 1787, and died in Miami County, Ohio, December 6th, 1867. She came to America in 1791 and first settled in Giles County, Virginia. In 1811 she emigrated to Ohio and with her husband settled in Miami County near McKendree Church. She was one of the original members who formed the first McKendree Association.

It is said that at the time of her death she left her husband, nine children, thirty-eight grandchildren and twenty-five great grandchildren, living.

Catherine Mitchell and William Mitchell's children were William S. Mitchell who married Mary R. Robinson; Eleanor Mitchell, who married John Helvie; Zachariah Mitchell, who married Cynthia Fuller; Elizabeth Mitchell who married Benjamin Robinson; Malinda Mitchell who married Levi Deaton; Susan Mitchell who married William Widner; Wilson S. Mitchell who married Charlotte Gearhart; Samuel Mitchell who married Malinda Stafford; and George J. Mitchell who married Amanda Robinson.

[William S. Mitchell and Mary R. Robinson Mitchell had two children: Milton G. Mitchell who married Celestia Iliff, and Elizabeth Mitchell who married George Brier. The children of Milton G. Mitchell were Fern who married Otto Benson; Mildred who married Raymond Smith; and Quinn who married Angeline Wright. Elizabeth Mitchell Brier had no children.

William S. Mitchell was for many years the leading and most active member of the McKendree Association; and few, if any of the members of that Association, were as prominent and much beloved in the community as he. He was one of the genial and friendly men of the neighborhood. For many years he led the congregational singing of the church.

He manifested great interest in the religious work of his church and seldom, if any, were the Sabbaths he missed, or failed to attend either Sabbath School or Religious Services. He extended the hand of welcome to every member or visitor of that church. His demise was indeed a great loss to the community and to the McKendree Association. His son Milton G. Mitchell, like his father, was one of the active members of the McKendree Association. He was a fine bass singer and when the congregational singing was supplemented with organ and choir, he became a member of the choir which was noted for the splendid music and entertainments given by the Mc-

Kendree Association. His wife, Celestia, was a woman with many fine qualities and took an active interest in the McKendree Association. She and her husband are buried in the cemetery of their church. The son, Quinn, is the only descendant of the prominent Mitchell Family who is now a member of the McKendree Association. He and his noble wife, Angeline, are much respected by the community in which they reside and are among the leaders of the McKendree Association.

The children of Eleanor and John Helvie were J. Finley Helvie; G. Moler Helvie; Louisa Nishwitz who left one son, Oscar Nishwitz; Malinda Hattin and Valeria Spade.

The children of Zachariah Mitchell and Cynthia Mitchell were Robert Mitchell; William Mitchell who married Lilly Verity; Crella who married John Mock; Maggie who married William S. Black; Emma who married George Ream and Ella who married Isaac Anderson.

The son Robert Mitchell was a teacher for many years and of a very religious turn of mind. William Mitchell was my roommate during my first college days. He was a genial fellow and indeed many were the pleasant hours we spent together.

The members of this family were among the best citizens of the community in which they resided and sustained a reputation for industry, honesty and religious activity not excelled by any member of the community.

I know little or nothing of the family of Elizabeth who married Benjamin Robinson, hence I cannot make further reference to them, however, from information of others, they maintained a prominent standing in their community and merited the respect accorded them by their friends and relatives.

Malinda and Levi Deaton had the following children: G. Whitten; Rev. W. A. Deaton; Frank Deaton and George Deaton. This family was prominent in the McKendree Association, all being members. Levi Deaton preceded his wife in death many years. Malinda lived to the age of 95 years. She was a remarkable woman, and was one of the most honored members of the community during her entire lifetime. She possessed a fine memory and could, with remarkable accuracy, relate the details and many interesting events of the early history of Pike Township. She loved her old Church, McKendree, and seldom missed any of the services held therein. Much of the history of the McKendree Association has been preserved by the information obtained from Malinda Deaton.

Susan Widner had three children: Fielding Widner, Lida and Maggie. The daughter Maggie died when a young woman, and the son Fielding is also deceased. I have many pleasant recollections of Fielding Widner. He was an attendant of old Pike School, and he and

I occupied a seat together in the old schoolhouse. He was my friend; a fine specimen of manhood; a genial fellow and much beloved by his associates. The mother, who is still living, was a member of the McKendree Society for many years and is much respected by her friends and neighbors.

The other members of her family were not members of that community after arriving at the years of manhood and womanhood, therefore I know little or nothing of their families.

By permission of Mrs. Laura C. Scarff, I here reprint her Address "The Mitchells in Connection with The McKendree Society", delivered at the Home-coming of that Association on September 19th, 1926.

“THE MITCHELLS IN CONNECTION WITH THE McKENDREE SOCIETY.”

By LAURA C. SCARFF

The parents of the Mitchells, who came to Ohio, were Methodists under the leadership of the celebrated Bishop McKendree of Virginia.

Methodism had been introduced only a few years prior to their settlement in that State.

It is said that John Wesley of England, addressed one of his preachers, George Shadford, in the following language:

“George, I turn you loose on the
Continent of America. Publish your
commission in the face of the sun.”

From that time on the advancement of Methodism grew until today she is the leading church of America.

The first meeting of the itinerant preachers who came to America was held in Philadelphia in June, 1773. This meeting was composed of ten preachers and at the close of the session, they were assigned to different parts of the country for future work in the cause of Methodism.

As they separated to spread the gospel throughout America, how appropriate the beautiful hymn of Charles Wesley:

“And let our bodies part
To different climes repair
Inseparably joined in heart
The friends of Jesus are.”

George Shadford, formerly mentioned and from England, was assigned to the City of Philadelphia, and Richard Wright and Robert Williams to the State of Virginia. The cause of Methodism from that date spread rapidly throughout the State of Virginia, and thence to the Western States and especially throughout the State of Ohio.

Long before the emigration of the Mitchells, and others, from Virginia to Ohio they were imbued with the spirit and doctrines of Methodism.

The meeting of the Western Conference at Chillicothe in 1807 soon brought a final decision of many of the Mitchell and Stafford Families to emigrate and locate in Ohio.

They looked on this State as the grandest and greatest place in the World. The Bill of Rights guaranteed to all its citizens the right to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience, which, with other provisions, caused them to look upon Ohio as a favorite State.

Bishop McCabe once said:

“It would not take much argument to convince me that Ohio is a favorite State of Heaven. If God has favorites among Nations, surely Ohio is one of them.”

Samuel Mitchell, my great-grandfather, was a Methodist, resident of King George County, Virginia. He was born in 1759; was a soldier of the Revolutionary War. In 1789, he married Malinda Cecil, who was of German descent. She lived to the age of 90 years.

In 1812, he came with his family to Ohio and settled in this locality which was then primeval forest and wilderness. His log house or cabin was located only a short distance from the place where we are assembled. In this log cabin was organized, by twenty-one charter members, seven of whom were Mitchells, the first McKendree Society.

For twenty years, they worshipped in this cabin which was located in a small ravine or valley and surrounded by a dense forest.

Had the song,

“Come to the Church in the Wildwood,
Come to the Church in the Vale”;

been known, how appropriate to the picture of the log hut and surroundings of the place where these Christian people met, Sabbath after Sabbath, to worship and establish the Christian civilization we enjoy today.

The church we meet in stands on the land deeded to this Society by Samuel and Malinda Mitchell. They had a family of five sons and six daughters. William, commonly known as “Uncle Billy”, and my grandfather, Howard Mitchell, are the only ones I have any recollection of ever seeing. My grandfather was a very religious man, and in fact he should have been a preacher. He was a fine singer, and was leader in that part of the Church service, for many years. His house was ever open to the itinerate preachers. His wife was Nancy Stafford, a sister of George J. Stafford, the father of Mary Stafford Deaton, who is present today.

Grandmother Mitchell was a beautiful woman, and with her husband, was always loyal to the Church. They loved McKendree and did much to further the interests of this Society.

They had five children: Joseph, Catherine, Malinda, James and Elinor.

Joseph and James moved to Indiana and died there. Malinda married Charles Vorhees. They were each regular attendants at McKendree.



Spring House built by James C. Stafford in 1848.

Aunt Linnie, as we called her, was a beautiful singer and we felt that she was called too soon to join the heavenly choir. Ella, their only child, a resident of New Carlisle, is the only survivor of her family. Elinor married William Robinson. Uncle Will was one who would be termed in this day, a "loud Methodist". He could make the walls of McKendree ring with his prayers. Some years ago, they moved to Troy where they departed this life, and their bodies rest in Riverside Cemetery. Their daughter, Kitty Schump, resides in Troy.

Catherine Mitchell, the oldest daughter of this Mitchell family was married to Findley Stafford, and she was "the flower of the flock", at least her four children thought so, for she was our mother. She and father were faithful members of McKendree. Water F. Stafford, their grandson is now the only one of our family holding a membership in the McKendree Society.

William Mitchell, or Uncle Billy as he was best known, was born in Virginia in 1785. He married my grandfather Stafford's sister, Catherine, who was born in Ireland and came to this country on the same vessel with my grandmother Catherine Fair Stafford.

They had nine children: five boys and four girls: Samuel, William, George, Wilson, Zachariah, Malinda, Nellie, Elizabeth and Susan, all attendants at McKendree.

I can still see Uncle Billy in the Church service. He always occupied a chair on the platform, facing the minister, and during the sermon many a fervent "Amen" came from his lips. I have only a faint recollection of his wife, Aunt Katie. Of their children, I only knew three of them, as the others had moved to homes of their own before my time.

Aunt Malinda Deaton was a dear, good soul. I loved to visit with her and hear her relate their experiences of early days; the hardships and trials they passed through, and when I left her, I always felt that I was just a little better woman for being in her company. She and Uncle Levi formed a share in the making of McKendree, and today, their sons Whitten and Albert have a rich heritage left them by the life and character of their sainted mother.

Aunt Nellie Helvy and her husband, John, were also valuable members. I remember their children, Watson, Valaria, Linnie and Louisa, each having departed this life. The only survivors of their family are Molar Helvy of the State of Michigan and J. Findley Helvy of Troy, Ohio.

What a glowing memory we have of good old Uncle Will Mitchell! How we all loved him; faithful, kindhearted and generous to a fault. He was one of the best men I ever knew. In fancy I can see him here today with his big outstretched hand to welcome everyone to McKendree. I do not think anyone will dispute my word when

I say McKendree has never been just the same since Uncle Will passed away.

Aunt Polly was his faithful mate. Their children, Elizabeth Mitchell Briar and Milton G. followed in their parents' footsteps and were ever ready to work in any department of the church. Too soon were they called away from these earthly scenes.

Today the mantle of that good man William Mitchell has fallen on his grandson, Quinn Mitchell, who with his noble and Christian wife and sons are carrying on the work that the Mitchells so well began.

Congregational singing for many years was the order, usually led by William Mitchell and Rowland Stafford.

Fifty years ago the first organ was installed in this church. Albert Eaton Stafford, a descendant of the Mitchells, was the first organist and occupied that position for twenty-five years.

On the introduction of the organ, a choir was organized, when the former singers surrendered their leadership. Milton G. Mitchell, a son of "Uncle Will" and the father of Quinn Mitchell, was the leading bass singer of the choir.

We would not cast a shadow of gloom over this happy congregation today, but we cannot help recalling the dear old faces we used to see here in this hallowed sanctuary.

Uncle Philip Stafford and Aunt Nancy; Uncle Valentine Pence and Aunt Katie; George W. Stafford and Aunt Nancy; Cyrus P. Stafford and wife, Martha; J. Rowland Stafford and wife, Mary; Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Sterrett; Mr. and Mrs. James Dunton; Mr. and Mrs. Benson, and others that I might mention, all at Home with their Heavenly Father.

McKendree church can boast of one thing that few rural churches can. She has given from her ranks, eight ministers of the gospel; Rev. Samuel Mitchell, Rev. John G. Black, Rev. John Bunyan Robinson, Rev. William Adin Robinson, Rev. W. A. Deaton, Rev. Marcellus B. Fuller, Rev. David Clutch, and Rev. Simon Benson; most of them distinguished preachers, and all of them earnest and faithful workers in the cause; five doctors: Dr. Van S. Deaton, Dr. John A. Sterritt, Dr. Ernest H. Deaton, Dr. Frank P. Stafford and Dr. Edwin Fuller, each prominent in their profession; and lastly she has produced three lawyers to pour oil on the troubled waters, viz: Arthur W. Clutch, of Columbus, Ohio; Walter Robinson of Cincinnati; and our Moderator, Horace W. Stafford.

Knowing these lawyers as I do, when their life is o'er, each can truly have the following inscription placed on their monument:

"Here lies a lawyer and an honest man", but, we trust it may not be interpreted to mean what an Irishman once said of that inscription:

"Sure there must be two in that hole".

1212264

This is a record of which any church may be proud, and few of any denomination can surpass it.

As the days come and go, and as some will silently slip away, may others take their places; and may this grand old church prosper for years to come and may we

“Somewhere, someway, sometime each day,
Just turn aside and stop and pray,
That God will make this Church the way
Of righteousness to men”.

FAMILY OF GEORGE STAFFORD, SR. AND CATHERINE FAIR STAFFORD

George Stafford, Sr., married Catherine Fair shortly after his arrival and location in Giles County, Virginia. As stated, he was the son of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford. The exact date of his marriage is not known. He formed her acquaintance during the voyage to America, she being, at that date, sixteen years of age. George was born in June, 1769. At the date of his marriage, he was eleven years the senior of his wife. Catherine Fair came from Enniskillen, Ireland, and was of Irish nationality. They settled on the south half of Section 31, Township 3, Range 10, of Champaign County, Ohio.

George and Catherine Fair Stafford, prior to their settlement in Clark County, had born to them, Elizabeth, commonly known as Aunt Betsy; James C.; John; George, Jr.; Ralph; Nancy and Margaret. Nancy died in infancy and never came to Ohio.

After their location in Clark County, they had born to them Joseph, Susannah, who died at the age of 18 years; also Ruth, Findley and Catherine, commonly known in later years as "Aunt Katy", making in all twelve in number.

George died December 19th, 1840. His wife, Catherine, died March 15th, 1870, at the age of 90 years and eleven days. They are buried in Black's Cemetery, which was donated by Samuel Black. Catherine was totally blind for more than 19 years prior to her death. Although but a boy, I can distinctly recall the sorrow of the family and the entire neighborhood when she passed away. In those days the death of an honorable citizen of the community caused profound sorrow, and they gathered from near and far to attend the last sad rites over the departed, and to extend their sympathy to the relatives and friends. A very interesting paper by Samuel McKinney Stafford on the family of George Stafford, Sr., is as follows:

“THE FAMILY OF GEORGE STAFFORD, SR. BY SAMUEL McKINNEY STAFFORD”

About the year 1790 a family of Staffords emigrated from northern Ireland to America. There is a tradition in the family that the Irish Staffords were of English origin, and this story is strongly corroborated, not only by the English name Stafford, but by the frequent recurrence, in the family history, of such English personal names as George, Thomas, Ralph, James, John, Catherine and Elizabeth. Not a Mike, or Patrick, or Dennis is found in the genealogical records.

The parents of this large family were named James and Nancy (nee Eaton). The six sons were George, Thomas, Ralph, James, Joseph and Edward.

The daughters were Margaret, who by her marriage became Peggy Devens; Jane, known later as Jennie Williams; Catherine, familiarly known after her marriage Katy iMtchell; Nancy, after her marriage, Nancy Hoge, and Susan.

In this company of emigrants also were a widow and her young daughter, whose name was Catherine Fair.

The voyage across the sea lasted nine long weeks. This was seventeen years before Fulton launched his little steamboat Clermont on the Hudson River, for her trial trip. A hundred years later, the great ocean liners were making the same voyage in less than one week.

At what port they landed is not known, but probably at Philadelphia. During the last decade of the 18th century a great stream of emigrants wended their way across southern Virginia. The Staffords were probably among these pioneer settlers, and made homes for themselves along Walker's Creek, Giles County, Virginia.

Here they remained for twenty years. But in the Fall of 1811 several Stafford families, together with others closely related to them, removed in a body to the then new state of Ohio. Following New River and the Great Kanawha to its mouth, they crossed the Ohio at Gallipolis, and continuing their journey in a northwesterly direction across the state, reached the site of their future homes in western Clark (then Champaign) and eastern Miami Counties in November—just a few days after General Harrison defeated the Indian tribes at the mouth of Tippecanoe River, Indiana.

Jonathan Meigs was then Governor of the new state, and Zanesville was its capital.

Four of the brothers, George, James, Joseph and Thomas, with their families, were in this emigration. One brother, Ralph, had preceded them, coming to the Indiana Creek settlement with a fam-

lly named Saylor several years before. Another brother, Edward, remained in Virginia.

A few years after their settlement in Virginia, George Stafford, who was born in 1769, and was twenty-one years of age when he left Ireland, married Catherine Fair. He seems, from the record, to have been eleven years her senior.

Seven children were born to this couple prior to their removal from Virginia, namely, Elizabeth, commonly known among the succeeding generation as Aunt Betsey; James, John, George, Ralph, Nancy and Margaret. Nancy died in infancy and was buried in Virginia.

After their removal to Ohio, other children were born to them as follows, namely, Susannah, Joseph, Ruth, Finley and Catherine. Susannah died in young womanhood at the age of eighteen years.

George and Catherine, with their six children, settled on a tract of land in Clark County, bordering on the Miami County line. His brother Thomas had previously entered the land adjoining on the north, and Ralph located next to him on the south. Two brothers, Samuel and Andrew Black were already in possession of a section of land adjoining him on the east.

The first work of the back-woods settler, after building his cabin-home, was the clearing of the land. In this, as in all the hardships of pioneer life, Catherine was, doubtless, a true helpmate, for tradition tells us she paid a laborer for clearing one acre of land by making him a linen shirt.

The hewed log house that sheltered the family had a large sitting-room with a big fire-place, and an outside chimney at the north end, two bedrooms next to it on the south, the big kitchen at the south end, and what was called an entry between the bed rooms and the kitchen.

On the second floor was a large but low room, with short windows at the sides. On the east side was a long porch. This house stood till after the marriage of the youngest son in 1845, when it was replaced by the present brick structure, now owned by George's grandson, Albert Eaton Stafford, and occupied by another grandson, Joseph H. Stafford. Most of the original entry of the land is still in possession of the family after the lapse of more than a hundred years.

Before he left the green hills that overlook Enniskillen and Loch Earne, in the Emerald Isle, George had learned the weaver trade, and the loom was set up in the wilderness home at an early period. The big spinning wheel, the little wheel, and the loom were essential parts of the pioneer's outfit a century ago. He also had a rope-walk where tow was converted into useful ropes.

Later in June, 1812, the United States Congress made a

formal declaration of war against Great Britain. Not long afterward, Dr. Asa Coleman was called from the little straggling village of Troy, (then across the river from where it now stands), to attend a sick woman in the Indian Creek settlement, and brought the startling news that the war was on, and the bloody red-skins had gone on the war-path.

Early the following year some of the settlers on Indian and Honey Creeks, including George, and one or two other Staffords, were mustered as militiamen, and taken to the north-western part of the state. But their military careers seem to have begun and ended with helping to build Fort Meigs, on the south bank of the Maumee River, just where the Ohio Electric Railway now crosses that stream.

George died in December 1840, and was buried in Black's Cemetery. Catherine survived him thirty years, and died in 1870, at the advanced age of ninety years. The last nineteen years of her life were spent in total blindness.

Their eldest daughter, Betsey, born in 1799; never married, and was a sort of foster-mother to the younger children, and all the grandchildren by whom she was universally loved. She too was afflicted with blindness in her old age, having lost her sight eleven years before her death, which occurred in 1882 at the age of eighty-two years. Both of these sightless old people were tenderly cared for in their declining years by the youngest son, Finley and his good wife Catherine, in the old home.

James, the eldest son, married Margaret, a daughter of Captain Samuel Black. He combined the vocation of farmer with that of carpenter, and many houses and barns still bear witness to his skill as a builder. His home was on the land entered by his Uncle, Thomas Stafford, in 1811, adjoining his father's on the north. He died March 1864, and was buried in Black's cemetery, where his wife had been laid eight years before.

John learned the cabinet-maker's trade, but after his marriage in 1826, with Betsey, daughter of Ralph Stafford, Sr., engaged in farming and carpenter work.

George Jr., the third son, was married in 1832 to Susannan, daughter of Samuel and Sarah McKinney and spent nearly his whole life as a tiller of the soil. In his early life he made several commercial ventures, buying hogs and horses, and driving them to Virginia, then the nearest market for such stock. He, also, in connection with his brother, James, built a grist-mill and saw-mill on Indian Creek, afterwards known as the Baugh Mill, which they operated for a while.

During the first six years of his married life, he lived on his father's farm, near the old home. The rest of his life was spent on land adjoining.

Susannah died in 1856 at the early age of forty-nine. He survived her twenty-four years, dying in March, 1860. Both were buried in New Carlisle Cemetery.

Ralph learned the tanner's trade with his brother-in-law, John Black, and later married Jane, the sister of John and William Black. Each of these two brothers had previously married a sister of Ralph. John was married to Margaret (or Peggy) in 1828, and William wedded Ruth, familiarly known as Ruthy, in 1833. The night preceding Ruth's wedding was long remembered as "the night of the falling stars"; a meteoric display of such unprecedented brilliancy that many people thought the end of the world had come.

The good things in the Dutch oven and the reflector before the great fire-place were less closely watched than the shooting stars in the November sky.

All three of these young families made homes for themselves in the then new state of Indiana. They all recognized the wisdom of the policy suggested by Marm Means to old Jack Means, in regard to buying cheap land—"While ye re a-gittin', git a plenty".

Besides managing their large farms, John did an extensive milling business on the Mississinawa River, and Ralph carried on the tanning business for many years.

The experience of William and Ruthy Black affords a typical illustration of pioneer life in Ohio and Indiana century ago.

In the spring following their marriage, they "moved" to their future home in the northeastern part of Delaware County, Indiana. A wagon, loaded with their household goods, a plow, a harrow, and some flour and meat, together with three horses and four cows comprised the outfit.

Ruthy's brother, Joseph, and William's brother, James, accompanied them. Joseph stayed with them two weeks and then returned to Ohio. The route traveled lay through Troy, Greenville, Winchester and Ridgeville. At Greenville they found it necessary, on account of the almost impassable condition of the road to hire a man with an ox team to take part of their load. He hauled it three days and was paid the munificent sum of one dollar per day.

Mr. Black had previously entered a tract of land containing 299 acres, and erected upon it their cabin home. It was built of round logs, was 16 by 18 feet in size, with puncheon floor, clapboard roof, stick and clay mortar chimney, had one door and one small window. Here the young couple began life. Here the bride, seventeen years old, lived for nearly seventy years. Bears and wolves infested the surrounding forest, deer afforded big game for the settler's rifle, and occasionally a strolling Indian looked in at the cabin door and grunted his "Howdy". The little clearing of four acres was planted in corn, and enough raised that year for home consumption.

Butter was worth, in the nearest town, five cents per pound, and eggs four cents per dozen.

The scattered voters of the township showed their appreciation of Mr. Black's worth as a citizen by electing him Justice of the Peace.

Joseph, the fifth son, after marrying the widow of Rowland Black (who was a daughter of Ralph Stafford) also joined the colony in Delaware County, Indiana, and engaged in farming and the work of a carpenter.

Finley, the youngest son, stayed after the death of his father, on the old farm with his mother and sister Betsey. Joseph and Catherine also remained while they continued unmarried.

Catherine, the youngest of the daughters, was married in 1843, to Valentine Pence. For a year or two the young couple lived in a small house on the old farm, and then located on a small farm bordering on Honey Creek. There was a saw-mill on the farm, and Valentine (who was a mill-wright by trade) divided his time between tilling the soil and running the mill. They both died in 189— and were buried in New Carlisle Cemetery.

In 1845, Finley married Catherine, daughter of Howard and Nancy Mitchell. They remained on the paternal estate until 1845.

A few years after their marriage, the house that sheltered the pioneers and their children for so many years was replaced with a substantial brick residence, now in the possession of their son, Albert, and occupied by their eldest son, Joseph. In 1878, the large frame barn that had served its purpose for many years was taken down and a new and commodious one erected in its stead.

In 1885, three years after Betsey had passed to the home above, he removed to New Carlisle, where he had prepared a new home. Nine years later he passed to his reward, at the age of seventy-five years. His widow, Catherine, continued to dwell in the village home until her death in March, 1913—an object of loving care on the part of her only daughter, Laura, wife of T. J. Scarff, and her unmarried son, Albert.

The educational opportunities of the children of George and Catherine Stafford were extremely meager. The nearest school house was more than a mile away from their home, through an almost unbroken forest, and across a creek. The entire school life of some of them scarcely exceeded in length the time boys and girls now have in one school year. Few, if any of them, ever got beyond "the three R's" but they acquired enough book knowledge to qualify them to act well their parts in their day.

In politics they were all Whigs until opposition to the exten-

sion of slavery culminated in the formation of the Republican party, from which time they uniformly voted with that party.

The heads of the Stafford Clan were among the first in this community to discard whiskey and applejack, and banish the jug from the harvest field, the log-rolling, and the barn-raising. Sobriety has been an immemorial characteristic of the entire family. In the family described in this paper, mutual trustfulness was a marked trait.

There is a record extant in which James is said to have sold to George, Jr., a tract of land which was paid for in installments. There were more than thirty payments, varying from small sums up to eight hundred dollars, and extending over a period of four years. No mortgage, or other form of security, or receipts were given, but merely a record kept of dates and amounts. Of course this was very bad business practice, but it shows the perfect confidence each one had in the other's honesty.

It is gratifying to the Staffords of the present generation to know that their ancestors were religious people. It is believed that most, if not all, the heads of families described in the first part of this paper were professed christians before they left the Old Dominion.

The very next year after this group of families began life in their new homes, a Methodist Society was organized in the cabin of Samuel Mitchell, and in this home and that of his son, "Uncle Billy" Mitchell, the back-woods Circuit-riders proclaimed the gospel of the hardy pioneers in its simplicity and its power for twenty years.

In the list of twenty-one names of persons who composed this Society at its organization, we find George and Catherine Stafford, and as the years passed, and their children grew to manhood and womanhood, all, or nearly all became members of it. In 1832 the Society erected a frame building for a place of worship, and named it after the revolutionary soldier and Methodist Episcopal bishop, William McKendree. From that day to this, the name McKendree has been entirely associated with the religious life and experience of many of the Stafford Family.

New Carlisle, Ohio,
August 14th, 1919".

The eldest child of George Stafford Sr., was Elizabeth, commonly known as Aunt Betsey. She was born in 1799 and died May 17th, 1883, at the age of 82 years, five months and 19 days. She lived her entire life a spinster. She, like her mother, was stricken with total blindness for a period of eleven years prior to her decease. She frequently visited my father and mother and seemed to take pleasure in relating events connected with their journey from Vir-

ginia to Clark County. She used to speak of the deer that came down to the spring branch for water; the thickly wooded country; the plentiful game and many other things of interest to one who knew nothing of the condition of the country in and around New Carlisle and the settlement where they located.

She lived her entire life, after coming to Ohio, on the farm where her parents located. She never married. Few, if any, of the Stafford family were more respected than she, or lived a more consistent upright life. I recall my last visit to Black's Cemetery in 1897, in company with my Uncle Irvin Stafford, and as we stood by her grave and looked at the plain stone which marks her last resting place, I thought how much like her, plain and unpretentious, and as we stopped and read the inscription thereon:

“Nothing less do I require,
Nothing more do I desire,
Naught to me is Earth to Heaven
Naught to me but Christ and Heaven”.

my mind went back to the days when I so often saw her, and I thought how those words spoke the truth of her in life as well as in death.

FAMILY OF GEORGE STAFFORD, JR.

George Stafford, Jr., was a son of George, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford. He married Susan McKinney, of Clark County, Ohio. Their children were Abarilla, Samuel McKinney and Robert F. Stafford. George lived for a number of years on a farm near the old homestead, but later he purchased a tract of land consisting of 112 acres, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was a stock raiser and at times purchased hogs and horses and drove them to Virginia, which was the nearest market. He was an energetic and industrious man, noted for his uprightness and fair dealing.

There is a record in the Stafford family of the sale of a farm by James C. Stafford, my grandfather, to George Stafford, Jr., which discloses that only a small sum was paid down at the date of the purchase of the farm, when the deed was delivered, and no note or mortgage was taken to secure the balance, but the same was sold on book account only. This old book discloses payments ranging from fifty to a couple of hundred dollars at a time, covering a period of almost 10 years, when the last entry shows that the farm was settled for in full. This record is evidence of the honesty and confidence which existed among the Stafford families in the early history of Clark County. In this day, a man can hardly buy a yellow dog on time without giving a note with approved surety or a mortgage to secure the payment of the purchase price.

Samuel McKinney Stafford, son of George, Jr., was born August 6th, 1837, in a log cabin in Pike Township, Clark County, on the site first settled by his grandfather, George Stafford, Sr. He married Miss Elizabeth Serviss, March 19th, 1874. In early life he developed an eager desire to obtain an education. He was a constant and studious reader, although in his early years, he assisted in clearing the ground and tilling the soil. His mind clung to his studies, and much of his leisure time was spent in reading the best periodicals and books of the day.

When three years of age, his father and mother abandoned the log cabin and moved with their family to their new home a short distance only from his birthplace, being the adjoining farm. At that time the cleared land did not exceed 20 acres, but the years rolled by, the forest was felled and the ground cleared, in which he assisted, spending the winter days in the country school and his nights in study and reading.

He attended Linden Hill Academy during three successive winters, under the instruction of Rev. Thomas Harrison, a noted Methodist minister and educator. At the age of 19 years he taught his first school at Cook's School House, located on Indian Creek, in Miami County, Ohio. He continued teaching and afterwards taught

at Pike and Black's school districts until President Lincoln issued his call for three thousand volunteers, when he entered the Army of the United States as a volunteer in August, 1861, enlisting in the 16th Ohio Battery under Captain James Anderson Mitchell. He was later assigned in the war to the states of Missouri and Arkansas, where he continued in the service for sixteen months, when exposure and climatic conditions brought on sickness and disease, and he was sent to the Government Hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained until November, 1862, when he was honorably and finally discharged from the service. When discharged from the Army and for about two years thereafter, there was little hope for his recovery, but climatic change and conditions in time gave evidence of his improvement and ultimate recovery, when he again pursued his reading and studies in connection with his farming and teaching at old Pike School. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of New Carlisle joining that society April 17th, 1864, and continued to be a member until his death, which occurred December 18th, 1923.

For 28 years, he was Superintendent of the Sunday School of his church and during the early part of that long period he walked from his home to his church and Sunday School, seldom missing a Sabbath. He held other positions in his church but throughout his entire life he sought no position or publicity, and accepted them only by earnest request of his friends and members of his church.

His wife, Elizabeth, was a lovely character and a most highly respected woman; she was industrious, religious and a most affable and companionable helpmate, all of which endeared her to him, and her sudden demise on April 28th, 1905, brought unspeakable sorrow to him throughout the remainder of his days.

Prior to the date of her death they had taken up their residence in New Carlisle, having moved from his farm where they had resided from the date of their marriage. After the departure of his wife he spent the remainder of his days in the last home where he and his faithful companion had theretofore had visions of happiness and contentment, and where he could devote more time to his church and cultivate his spiritual inclinations. He cultivated and maintained throughout his entire life the higher and better qualities of manhood and good citizenship. He was truly religious and his daily walk and consistent life impressed all who were favored with his acquaintance, of his sincerity and belief in the Bible and Christian religion.

He was an Elder in his church; he walked in the radiant sunshine of the spiritual world; and, as he ripened in years, his never failing adherence to the tenets of the church, coupled with a distinguished acquaintance with many of its leaders, made him one of its most valuable members. He pursued that course in life which he be-

lieved augered good for humanity, and with that purpose in view, throughout his entire life, advocated and supported all moral reforms. Although well qualified, he sought no station in life as a public speaker. He was inclined to be reticent, yet his reasoning and logic were sound on all subjects of which he made a study.

Abarilla was born on the 6th day of February, 1833. She was married to David Johnson November 22nd, 1867. They had the following children born to them: Susan, who married Harry Combs of Miami County; Julia, who married Milton Stafford. Abarilla, like her brother, was a Presbyterian and was much devoted to her church. She was active in religious work, and manifested great interest in the welfare of the association to which she belonged. Her husband, David Johnson, was a fine carpenter, and a very successful business man. He died March 18th, 1880. After their marriage they took up their residence on the farm of Mr. Johnson, located south of and adjoining Silver Lake, in Miami County, Ohio. This farm is still in the family and is owned by Julia Stafford, their daughter, who resides thereon.

For a number of years after the death of Abarilla's mother, she was the head of the household of the family of George Stafford, Jr. Her wedding was the first that I had the opportunity of witnessing, and while only a small boy, I distinctly recall the occasion, and the impression it made upon my mind has continued throughout my life. It was a notable event in the community and many were in attendance upon that occasion.

After the death of her husband she continued to reside on the farm, where they first located, until the day of her death. She was an exemplary character and a woman much respected by her relatives and friends. She possessed the usual traits of the family, having indomitable will power and with courage to assert her convictions on all matters and subjects in which she was interested. Her children, Mrs. Susan Combs and Julia Stafford, like her mother, are active members of the Presbyterian Church.

Susan Combs had the following children: Howard Combs, who married Addie Gardner; and Lucile, who married Glen Durlinger; a daughter Lois and her father, Harry, were instantly killed by a train.

Julia Stafford has the following children: Lawrence Stafford; Dean Stafford and Browning Stafford.

Robert F. Stafford, the youngest of the family of George Stafford, Jr., and Susan McKinney Stafford was born November 22nd 1841, on the farm where his father and mother died. His first wife was Mary Black, a daughter of Robert Black of Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. From this union one child, Cora A. Stafford, now Jones, is the only issue. His first wife died September 29th,

1880. She was a teacher, prior to her marriage, at Pike School. She was a beautiful singer and a very entertaining lady.

After the death of his first wife, he married Jeanette J. Johnson, the daughter of Rev. E. Roger Johnson, a prominent minister of the Presbyterian Church and a notable citizen of New Carlisle. By this marriage they had one child, Nellie J. Stafford who resides in New Carlisle, Ohio.

Robert F. Stafford, after the death of his father, became the owner of the 112 acres of land where his father had resided for many years. He resided on this farm until the year 1903, when he removed to New Carlisle, where he died March 31st, 1925.

For many years, he was an active member of the Methodist Church of New Carlisle, but after his marriage to Miss Johnson, he became a member of the Presbyterian Church, and there continued his membership until the date of his death. Robert spent his entire life as a tiller of the soil and overseer of his farm. He was an industrious man, noted for his honesty and integrity, and much respected.

He and his brother Samuel were much attached to each other, and their history discloses the fact that they never had a quarrel during their lifetime. In the latter years of their lives they spent many hours together in social intercourse and pleasant conversation. He manifested great interest in the annual reunions held by the Stafford and Black families. The organization was formed in old Pike School, in the year 1896, he and his brother Samuel, being the chief promoters of that reunion, which later was held in the grove on his farm.

He had an extensive acquaintance with the Stafford and Black families, and was possessed of a splendid memory; could recall many notable events connected with the different families. Like his brother Samuel and sister Abarilla, he was extremely active in church work. He sought no official position or prominence in life, but aimed to lead an exemplary life and one highly commendable in the locality where he resided.

The daughter, Cora, inheriting the intellectual qualities of her father and mother, was a prominent teacher, for many years, in the public schools. She now resides in Springfield, Ohio. She is a woman of unusual mentality and is possessed of a fine memory.

The daughter Nillie is a girl of fine attainments; a fine scholar, a teacher by profession, and is to be highly commended for the prominence she attains among her relatives and acquaintances.

As I review the lives of the family of George Stafford, Jr., it can truly be said of them that this family has a record for uprightness, ability and religious inclination, which is not excelled by any other family of my acquaintance.

PIKE SCHOOL

The early education of most all the Staffords, who were reared in Pike Township, was obtained in the little country school house located on the farm of George Stafford, Jr. It was a building about thirty feet square, of low ceiling, with a large stove, which took in a stick of wood three feet in length. It was situated in a wood of Maple trees. It was a picturesque place, when the early fall frosts nipped the foliage of those beautiful trees.

Among those who were prominent in the district was Samuel McKinney Stafford, who, after he arrived at the years of manhood, was a teacher in that school for many years. He was an expert disciplinarian and a splendid instructor. It was not an uncommon occurrence among some of the male attendants of this school to be guilty of many acts of misconduct, such as stealing peaches, plums, putting a polecat or opossum in the teacher's desk; amputating the tails of hogs belonging to George Stafford, Jr.; they being of the "Elm-Pealer" stock, with tails equally as long as their snouts. They were frequently penned in the small schoolyard and chased and stoned unmercifully.

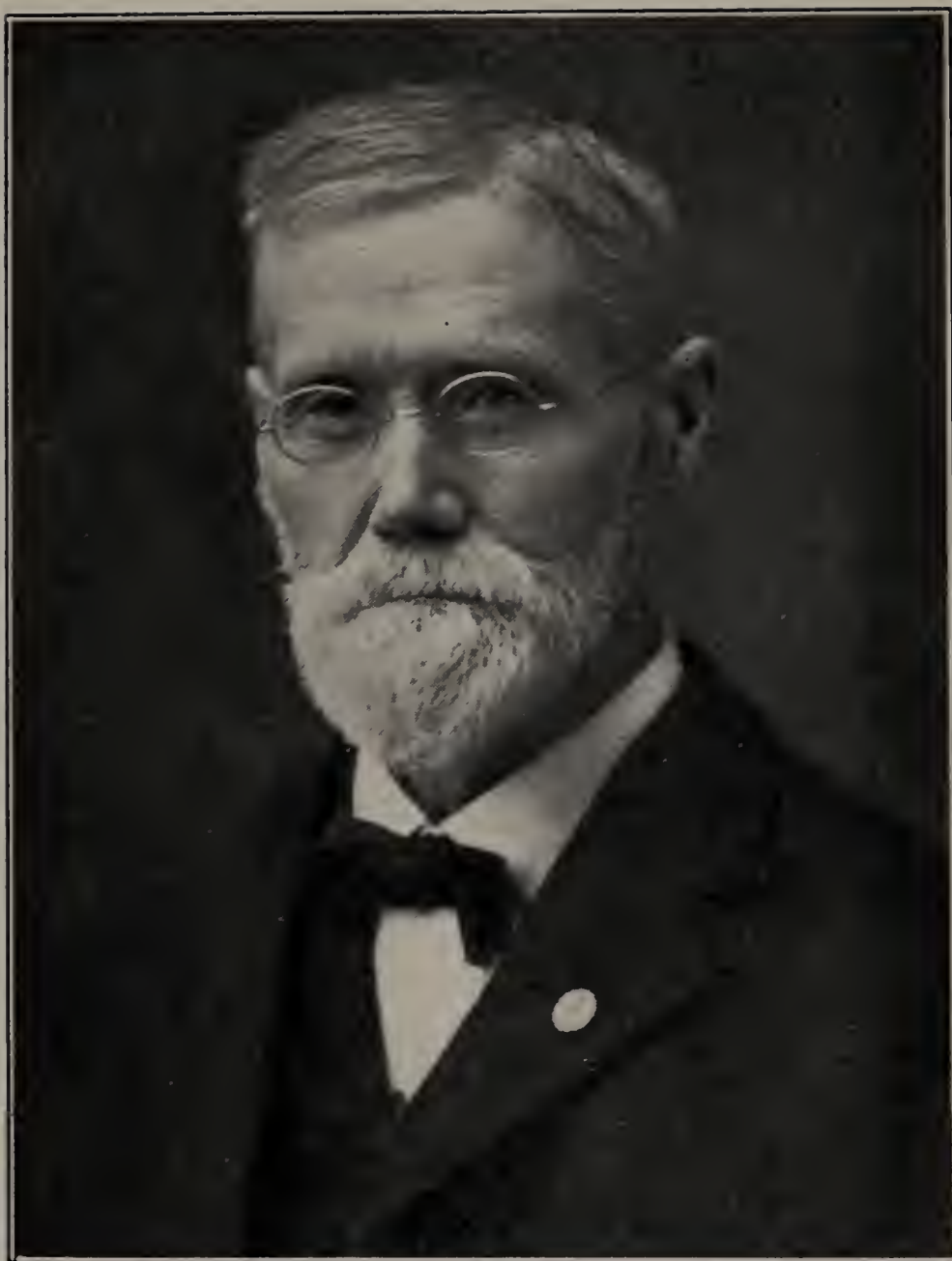
The attendance at this school was large, and the small room barely sufficient to accommodate the large number of pupils. In the center was the large stove, often overheated, which with the frequent use of the hickory or beach gad, made it indeed a hot place.

Debates, spelling schools, ciphering matches, and entertainments were attended from miles around. It was one of the most noted districts in the country.

In the district was an orchestra composed of Joseph H. Stafford, Albert Eaton Stafford, Joel Stafford and Algernon P. Stafford, which entertained the community on these and other occasions, much to their delight and appreciation.

The district supported a library made up by contribution, which was kept at the residence of George Stafford, Jr., it being only a short distance from the schoolhouse. The volumes of this library were much sought by the pupils: sometimes for information, but on frequent occasions to occupy the attention of the librarian, so that they might steal the plums or other fruits of the owner of the farm where it was located.

Teachers of note and culture sought employment in the district, due largely to the reputation of its scholars, and their literary attainments. The common branches were thoroughly taught and the pupils became expert spellers, mathematicians and knew geography as well as the A. B. C.'s. William T. Davis was a teacher in this school for nine successive years. He was a much respected man in the community.



SAMUEL McK. STAFFORD

The old school house has long since passed away, without mark in the landscape to designate where it stood; the plow, harrow, and cultivation of crops has obliterated all evidence of the place of its location. The fine and beautiful sugar grove, in which it was located, has answered the call of the woodman's ax, and the golden forest is seen no more. This country school was the pride of the community and the few who recall old Pike much regret that it has passed from the observance of the present generation.

The few who are living with knowledge of its location frequently refer to it with pride and fond remembrance that they were among the pupils of that district.

In this school house the organization of the Stafford and Black Reunion was perfected, and since that date, the respective families have annually met, either in Ohio or Indiana.

Of the pupils who were among the first attendants in the old school house, only two are living: Caroline Swonger, aged eighty three years and Martha J. McNeal, aged eighty one years.

In the winter of 1926, the few remaining pupils of Pike School, and their old teacher, William T. Davis, were entertained with a dinner at the New Carlisle Inn. For that occasion, Professor Ladrue Layton, of Springfield, Ohio, an intimate friend of the writer, wrote the following beautiful poem, descriptive of the location and surroundings of that School, which is as follows:

OLD PIKE SCHOOL

As shades of night around me close,
Sweet voices whisper low,
When fancy leads my truant thought
Through scenes of long ago.
I hear a father's stern command,
Though tinged with kindly tone,
I hear a mother's voice of love,
And know her as my own.

Old boyhood friends with laugh and jest
And some with bitter tears,
Recount the tales of other days
With all their hopes and fears.
They bring to mind dear old Pike School
That sturdy pioneer,
Where masters stern, with switches keen,
Made rules and duties clear.

We trudged along the dusty road,
With books and dinner-pail,
For in those days we studied hard
It meant disgrace to fail.
The honor of the name we bore
We ever must maintain
And gads at home were freely used
To stimulate the brain.

When nature chose a favored spot
To grow a forest rare,
She lingered round old Pike awhile,
And left her choicest there.
No master's brush could ever paint
The beauties of the scene,
When Autumn's frosty magic wand
Had touched the summer's green.

But soon the gaudy colored leaves
Were changed to somber brown,
Then icy winds released their grasp,
And bore them gently down.
For months the stately maples stood
With heads bared to the blast,
Nor smiled upon the landscape 'round
'Till May days came at last.

The pond though small, to me it seemed
An ocean vast and wide,
Upon whose breast my fancy dreamed,
The nation's navy plied.
And oft when winter's icy coat
Had filmed its surface o'er,
Fast games of "Shinney" then were played
Upon its glassy floor.

Nor can I ever forget
How vast the school-room seemed,
How tall the teacher's sacred desk,
How bright our wood-fire gleamed.
The blackboard high where older boys
Worked out the "Rule of 3",
Where girls wrote sentence diagrams
With all their mystery.

On quiet Friday afternoons
We had our spelling match
When teacher tried with ghoulish glee,
Unwary minds to catch.
And the Shades hide the fateful day!
When on the platform high,
With shaking knees, we spoke our piece,
And aimed to do or die.

Now boys have ever been the same,
Since time's first day awoke,
For they have kept most all the rules
Except the ones they broke.
Our teachers lives were oft beset
With things which vexed them sore,
And this shall ever be their lot,
'Til time shall be no more.

Just why a skunk chose teacher's desk
I ne'er could even guess,
For surely no one put him there,
To stir up such a mess.
And when stray hogs in wild stampede
Ran round and 'round the yard,
'Tis strange that friendly neighbors gave
Our school such scant regard.

Now fifty years have come and gone
With all their toil and care,
The faces of those happy youths
Show signs of struggles there.
The woodman's ax and the farmer's plow
Have leveled off the ground,
And where our sturdy school-house stood
No single trace is found.

Like cities of an ancient time,
Its life is now but dust,
From earth it came, to earth returned
As human glories must.
But still there lives within our hearts,
A love that's true and strong
For Pike, our Alma Mater dear,
And all her happy throng.

FAMILY OF JOHN STAFFORD AND ELIZABETH STAFFORD

John Stafford, son of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, was born in Giles County, Virginia, in 1804, and died at New Carlisle, Ohio, in November, 1870.

He was one of the company who came to Ohio from Virginia in 1811. He married Elizabeth Stafford, a daughter of Ralph Stafford, Sr. The earlier years of his married life were spent on a farm in Pike Township, of which he was the owner. The most of this farm was heavily timbered, but today there is not a forest tree standing upon it. The latter years of his life were spent in New Carlisle where he died in 1875.

His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1868. They had six children, viz: Joseph W. Stafford; Samuel E. Stafford; George F. Stafford; Sallie Stafford; Catherine Stafford and Margaret Stafford.

John Stafford was usually called "Uncle John" and was designated by that name as there were other John Staffords connected with the family. His wife, Elizabeth, was commonly called "Aunt Betsey" due also to the fact that there were other Staffords connected with the tribe, by the name of Elizabeth. They were a hospitable, friendly family and were noted for their sociability. They were Methodists.

Joseph W. Stafford, son of John and Elizabeth Stafford, was born on the farm of his father, in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. On the 22nd day of October, 1868, he married Mary Leffel, a resident of Bethel Township, Clark County, Ohio. She died August 10th, 1914, and Joseph W. died October 31st, 1918. They are buried in Ferncliff cemetery, Springfield, Ohio.

Mary Leffel Stafford was a woman with keen intellect, good business capacity, energetic and ambitious. For many years prior to her death, she was a great sufferer and wholly helpless physically. These long years of suffering made no change in her interest in business affairs or sociability with her large circle of friends.

Joseph in the early years of his marriage was engaged in farming, but for many years prior to his death he resided in Springfield and engaged for some years in the grocery business. He was connected with the manufacture of the Kelley Rubber Tire Company which was one of the first organized in the United States to manufacture rubber tires. From this financial enterprise he accumulated considerable wealth. For about the period of fifteen years, he engaged in no active business but devoted most of his time in caring for his invalid wife.

For many years he was a trustee of the Ferncliff Cemetery Association, Springfield, Ohio, taking a very active interest in the

adornment and care of that cemetery which, today, is one of the most beautiful spots in America.

He was extremely popular with the connection and had a wide circle of friends in the city of his residence. No member of the families enjoyed the reunions or the meeting of friends and relatives more than did Joseph W. Stafford.

They had three children born to them: Olive M., who married Hugh McCulloch; Florence who married Fred B. Wallace, and George Leffel Stafford, who died August 6th, 1899.

Olive M. McCulloch is one of the foremost women of Springfield, the place of her residence. For years she has been an active member of The Young Women's Christian Association, and other organizations of charity.

Florence Wallace, like her sister, is quite active in social affairs and has the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have two children: Fred M. Wallace, Jr., and Mary Elizabeth Wallace.

Hugh McCulloch and Fred B. Wallace are among the active and substantial business men of the City of Springfield. It can be said of the family of Joseph W. and Mary Leffel Stafford, that they lived happy and agreeable lives, each being much attached to the other. They were a happy family. The parents never allowed any occurrence or act to mar or disturb the friendship or harmony of the family circle; and in return, the daughters and their husbands reciprocated by acts of kindness and attention to them in the closing days of their lives.

Samuel E. Stafford, son of John and Elizabeth Stafford, was born on his father's farm in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. He married Margaret Taylor of Miami County, Ohio. For many years after their marriage they lived on the farm of his father. He was one of the most industrious men I ever knew. He operated a threshing machine for many years. My father being interested with him in that enterprise, I was assigned to duty in that connection for three summers, being only of the age of fourteen at the time I began to fire the engine, haul the water and drive the oxen. I never knew a man that put in more hours at work in a day than Samuel E. Stafford. The sun had scarcely risen during the threshing season, but that he was ready to begin the duties of the day. He was a very agreeable man and would over-exert his physical strength to do his friends a kindness.

In later years, he and his wife moved to New Carlisle where for some years he was engaged in the grocery business. His confidence in his fellowmen, while engaged in that business, resulted, by an extension of credit to patrons, in financial embarrassment.

While engaged in the threshing business, in his younger days,

he met with a misfortune in having his hand caught in the side-gear of an old horse-power separator, which necessitated the amputation of two fingers of his right hand. I distinctly recall going with my father and mother to his home on the evening when his fingers were amputated. Dr. John N. Stockstill, of New Carlisle, was the surgeon on this occasion and not having suitable instruments to amputate his fingers, Albert Eaton Stafford was dispatched to the home of my father about a mile distant, for a meat-saw with which Dr. Stockstill sawed off his fingers. At the time of the operation I was taken by my mother to a little old building a couple of rods from the residence, and the screams and agony of Samuel E. Stafford when his fingers were being amputated, were enough to strike terror to the heart of any listener. I do not recall the year that this occurred, but if my recollection serves me correctly, I was just about eight years of age.

The latter years of his life were spent in Springfield, Ohio, where he was an employee in a grocery store. He had one daughter, Seretha, who married a Mr. Houser. He felt very keenly his misfortune in life, but it was not due to any fault of his, as he was honest, temperate, industrious and economical, but his confidence in his fellowmen, and other reasons I might mention were the cause of his financial misfortune.

In his closing days he was always glad to meet his old friends and relatives and often referred to the days of his early life. He was entitled to a much better and happier life than he lived. However, he maintained the respect of the entire Stafford families throughout his life. His closing days were spent near the home of his brother Joseph W., who did all in his power to render him aid and comfort. After his death, his widow, Margaret Stafford moved from her former place of residence and a few years later she too passed away. Samuel and his wife are buried in Ferncliff Cemetery, Springfield, Ohio. Their latter years were spent with little or no attention from relatives except those who lived in Springfield.

While residing on the farm and also in New Carlisle, no parents could have manifested a greater interest and pride in the welfare of their child, than did Samuel E. Stafford and his wife, Margaret.

George F. Stafford, a son of John Stafford and Elizabeth Stafford, was born on the farm in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, and died August 24th, 1897. He married Catherine Black. They had two children: Alice and Charles Stafford.

George's entire life was spent on the farm. He lived in the brick house which is still standing at the cross-roads about two and a half miles north of New Carlisle, on the Bellefontaine Pike. He was industrious and a splendid farmer. His wife preceded him in death many years. He is buried in Black's Cemetery in Pike Town-

ship, which interment took place on the date of the Second Reunion of the Stafford and Black families, which was held in the grove of Robert F. Stafford.

Alice has one son, Oral. Charles Stafford married Ella Stitzel. He resides in Springfield, Ohio. He is a most attentive man to the duties of his employment and throughout his entire life has commanded the respect of the Stafford families. They have the following children, viz: Bulah F. Roher, Bessie L. Dillehunt and Rodger B. Stafford.

Sallie, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stafford, married Samuel Gregory, of Eaton, Indiana. Her husband was an extensive landowner and a brother of Ralph Gregory, a noted lawyer, of Muncie, Indiana.

Sallie was a great favorite when a girl, among the Staffords of her social circle. Like her brother, Joseph, she was friendly and a most companionable woman. The parties and entertainments in the community where she was born were largely attended, and none were held in which Sallie was not an active participant, joining with the rest in making them a success.

After her marriage she spent the remainder of her days in Indiana. She died in 1914. Her husband preceded her in death about three years. They had two children: Ralph; and Samuel who died in infancy. Ralph Gregory married Grace Mansfield. To Ralph and his wife were born the following children: Samuel, Eugene, Elizabeth, Katherine and Margaret.

Ralph Gregory is one of the energetic men of the community in which he resides and is possessed of splendid business ability.

The frequent visits of Sallie to Ohio after her marriage recalled many interesting events of her younger days and social entertainments in which she participated, as she and her relatives chatted over the events of their youthful days. She was, indeed, a welcome visitor at the county of her birth-place and the cordial reception tendered her by her friends was appreciated in no slight degree.

Catherine Stafford, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stafford, was born in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. She married John J. Stafford who was a son of Thomas and Catherine Williams Stafford. They lived in a log house a short distance east of Honey Creek, and spent their entire days on this farm. They were hard working people, and owing to the poor quality of the land on which they resided, accumulated little beyond a living. They are buried in Black's Cemetery, Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio.

They had the following children: William Stafford who married Belle Gilbert; Thomas, who married Ida Ditmer; Clara, who married Frank Ulrick. To Frank and Clara Ulrick was born one child, Mrs. Stella Bratton; Edith, who married Mr. Charles Bles-

singer, who have the following children: Goldie, Florence and Clara.

The daughter, Clara, died some years ago. The other children, William and Thomas reside in Springfield, Clark County, Ohio.

Margaret Stafford, daughter of John and Elizabeth Stafford, married John Verity, a resident of New Carlisle, Ohio. She died many years ago, leaving no children.

FAMILY OF CATHERINE STAFFORD PENCE AND VALENTINE PENCE

Catherine Stafford, a daughter of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, married Valentine Pence. Immediately after their marriage they moved on a farm in Pike Township, located on Honey Creek, where they resided during the remainder of their lives. They had two children Caroline and Margaret.

Valentine Pence operated a saw-mill on Honey Creek which was the east boundary line of the farm on which he lived. In later years they abandoned the old home and erected a more substantial residence. They lived to celebrate their Golden wedding in 1892. Catherine was commonly called "Aunt Katy". She died November 8th, 1893, and her husband, Valentine, died November 18th, 1893. They were members of the McKendree Association.

The saw-mill operated on their farm was a place of more than usual interest in the early years of Pike Township, as most of the timber for the building of houses and barns for miles around was sawed at this mill. This mill was abandoned about thirty-five years ago and later, shortly after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Pence, was razed.

Their home was a most welcome place to all the relatives in the country. It is said that Laura C. Scarff and Anna F. Counts, nee Stafford, when at a neighborhood gathering at the home of Valentine and Aunt Katy, were the ones who first suggested the holding of a reunion of the Stafford and Black families and that shortly thereafter a meeting was called by Samuel McKinney Stafford and Robert F. Stafford, in Pike school house where a number of the families attended and the organization was perfected.

The daughter, Margaret Stafford, was generally known as "Maggie", and was a resident of New Carlisle for a number of years prior to her death. She married Anthony S. Stafford. They had one child, Dr. Frank P. Stafford, now a practicing physician of Lima, Ohio. Maggie died February 7th, 1915, and is buried in New Carlisle cemetery. Her husband, Anthony, died in 1926, New Carlisle being the place of his residence at the time of his death.

Of all the Staffords of my acquaintance I know of no one more beloved by the relatives than Maggie Stafford. Her affection for her relatives and especially for her son, was so marked that it was noticeable by all her friends. She lived a modest life; seldom could she see any wrong in those to whom she was especially attached and if she did, she was always ready to forgive and was faithful to them until her life's journey ended; of kindly disposition; a faithful christian; possessed of a good heart and good judgment endearing her qualities to all her relatives and friends.

In her son, whom she worshiped and of whose success and welfare she never lost sight, I see the fruits of her example and early training exemplified in his life; and for his noble character and skill as a physician, he too, shares with all his relatives, the same high admiration and respect accorded his sainted mother.

I cannot forget the last visit to her and the affectionate farewell she gave me on my departure from her bedside, she realizing the approaching end of her earthly journey.

Her relatives and friends held her in the highest esteem and I feel she is entitled in these pages, to something more than mere mention; therefore, I offer this brief tribute to her memory.

Her son, Dr. Frank P. Stafford, ranks with the leading physicians of the day and is held in high esteem by the members of his profession. He married Elberta Dresbach.

Caroline, daughter of Catherine and Valentine Pence, married Thomas Swonger, a resident of New Carlisle. He enlisted in the War of the Rebellion and was a good soldier. He died in the year 1915. They had one child, Pearl, who married Herbert S. Forgy, a prominent banker for many years, of New Carlisle, the place of their residence. He died April, 1925. They have one child, Thomas Forgy, who, like his father, is engaged in the banking business.

Caroline in her early days attended Pike school and is one of its pioneer members.

There is one other, in connection with the family of Valentine Pence who I feel should be mentioned. It is John B. Hinkle who resides in New Carlisle. He married Miss Charity Sutton, a sister of William Sutton mentioned in connection with the family of George J. Stafford. When John B. Hinkle was a little boy of the age of three years, he was left an orphan and without relatives. Valentine and Katy Pence learning of the little lad's orphanage, took him as a member of their family and extended to him the same advantages and affection given to their own children.

John B. Hinkle never overlooked or forgot the kindness of Valentine and his wife and their children, to him. He looked upon his foster-parents as his real father and mother and regarded Caroline and Maggie as his sisters. In his younger days he was a great fisherman and hunter, and few surpassing him in the art of angling. Valentine Pence, his foster father, was a fine carpenter and taught John the carpenter trade which he has followed for many years. He has done most of the carpenter work for the Staffords of the neighborhood.

He has been regarded by the Staffords as one of their number, and there has been no reunion of the families at which he was not present to participate in the sociability of the occasion. His wife, Charity, is one of the splendid women of the community and their

children are industrious and enterprising held in high esteem by the Stafford families.

McKENDREE CHURCH

The Staffords, Mitchells and some of the Blacks who came from Virginia were Methodists. Shortly after they located in Clark and Miami Counties they began to consider the location of a place of worship and Methodist organization. Samuel Mitchell had built his log hut in Miami County, which was located in a ravine near a running stream of water in what was then a dense forest. This log hut was located within a short distance of the line between the respective counties. The settlements of the Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells were within a radius of a few miles of the log hut.

In 1912, Frederick Mock, Mrs. Mock, Ralph Stafford and Catherine Stafford, Thomas Stafford and Catherine Williams Stafford, George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, James Stafford and Sarah Stafford, William Mitchell and Catherine Mitchell, Samuel Mitchell and Malinda Mitchell, Daniel Hoge and Nancy Hoge, Rebecca Helvy, Elinor Mitchell, Sarah Mitchell, Letitia Mitchell, and Mary Sunderland met in the log house of Samuel Mitchell and organized the McKendree Society. It was named after Bishop McKendree, a prominent divine of Virginia, with whom they were acquainted prior to their emigration to Ohio.

Shortly after the organization other early settlers of that locality, including Samuel Black and Malinda Black, became members of the Society. This log hut was their place of worship from 1812 to 1832 when a frame church was built on the spot where the present church is located. The frame church was about thirty feet wide and forty feet in length with two doors for entrance in the front part. It had a puncheon floor. It would have been considered in this day a rude structure but at that time was considered by the Society a very commodious church. They worshiped in this church until the year 1853. Prior to the erection of the frame church there were no well defined roads but simply trails through the country and forest which led past the log house of Samuel Mitchell. The Society grew in numbers until it consisted of a large congregation. In later years McKendree Church became one of the prominent churches of Clark and Miami Counties. In 1841 and 1842 camp meetings were held in connection with the Society, which resulted in a great revival throughout the community. In the years 1851 and 1853 the frame church was replaced by a substantial brick building, being the present structure. The building of the brick church was under the supervision of James C. Stafford, my grandfather. A paper written by Martha J. McNeal, his daughter, and read at the Home-coming of this Society on September 19th, 1926, by her permission, is found in this volume, giving a splendid history of the early organization of the Society and the building of the present brick Church.

For one hundred and fourteen years McKendree Church has been a notable place in the history of Methodism of the respective counties. For more than fifty years past it supported the largest Sabbath School and attendance of any church in the County; its entertainments and meetings in line with religious worship have outnumbered any other denomination. On August 2nd, 1908, the first Home-coming meeting of this Society was held in the present brick church. The occasion was largely attended, there being an afternoon and evening session with a splendid program and list of speakers of the older members of the Society and descendants of the former members and attendants of the Church.

On September 19th, 1926, the second Home-coming was held in the Church, it being the 114th anniversary of the Association. The marvelous change in the present membership of the church disclosed that three members only,—Walter Stafford, Harley Stafford and Quinn Mitchell, were descendants of the original founders of that organization. The program of the occasion was quite interesting, the Society having with them Dr. John Thatcher, Dr. Van S. Deaton, Martha J. McNeal, Rev. C. D. Munsey and Rev. W. A. Robinson, all past the age of eighty years and once connected with the McKendree Society; also Rev. Philip Trout and others who participated in the program of the day.

The occasion was a delightful event in the community and much credit is due to the present membership for the splendid manner in which they entertained the large audience consisting of more than five hundred people.

This church was the place of worship of nearly all the early pioneers of that community. They met Sabbath after Sabbath to worship in the true spirit of reverence and a degree of simplicity that marked the life of their great leader. Many prominent men were connected with that community; among them Rev. John G. Black, who participated in the Home-coming of 1908, he being in his eighty-fifth year and a speaker on that occasion.

Forty years ago it was a place widely known as one of sociability, culture and learning among its attendants. The organization and members of McKendree Church have always welcomed the stranger with the hand of friendship and good will.

EARLY HISTORY OF McKENDREE SOCIETY AND CHURCH

By
Martha J. McNeal

This is Home-coming Day at the old Church—coming home, and sweet it sounds to one who approaches the home of his childhood, and to me this is home in more than one sense of the word.

The subject assigned to me is "Early History of The McKendree Society." The Society was organized one hundred and fourteen years ago. In the summer of 1812 a part of three families emigrated to Ohio from old Virginia, and settled in Clark and Miami Counties within a few miles of each other, near the present site. The first introduction of Methodism in Miami County was in the town of Troy, the County Seat, in the year 1809. The first introduction of Methodism in Clark County was in the year 1805.

McKendree Society was the second organization of Methodism in Miami County where our present Church stands.

Under the regulations of Methodism some pioneer would offer a minister the use of his cabin for services. When the services were held by some traveling pioneer minister opportunity was given to unite with the Church and a class was formed of members and probationers. Such classes were never smaller than six persons and if the number exceeded twenty the organization was denominated a society. In those early days the societies had preaching at first not oftener than once in two months; thence advanced to a sermon each month and later, as the Society grew in numbers and was able to support a minister, the services were held every two weeks with a minister in attendance.

Out of the colony of emigrants, twenty-one christians organized the first religious society in this locality in the log house of Uncle Billy Mitchell which he built in 1811, naming this society "McKendree" in honor and memory of Bishop McKendree of their home state, Virginia. They worshiped in the homes of the different members of the Society for twenty years without a church and it is said they never missed a service on the Sabbath Day. Sometimes they had a minister, but if not they held a class meeting.

Friday night was their prayer-meeting night, which service was as regularly attended as the Sabbath services. They were Christian people and lived up to their opportunities. They believed in the Bible and had faith in its policies. They had implicit faith in prayer. They had faith in the promise of Christ where he said to his people "Where two or three are met together in my name, there am I also."

When but a little girl I recall my grandmother saying to me that they waited anxiously for Friday night to come as they felt great need of that night to help them through the coming week. The Revolutionary soldier, Samuel Mitchell, and his wife, conveyed one acre of heavily wooded land to the McKendree Society for Church, and cemetery purposes.

The first church erected on the present site was in 1832. From information received from the Rev. John G. Black, it had a clapboard roof and a puncheon floor. The Society continued to occupy this church until their membership had so increased that it was not of sufficient size to accommodate the congregation, also the church was sadly in need of repair owing to the fact that it was originally a cheaply built structure.

In the year 1851 the congregation met for the purpose of considering the enlargement of the old church, but they finally came to the conclusion that it was not advisable to remodel or enlarge it and decided to build another frame church on the same location.

At this time they came to my father, James C. Stafford, for an estimate to build a church of certain dimensions, he being the only contractor living in this locality. Prior to the final determination of rebuilding a new church some of the members of the Society had made a visit to the East, where they saw some brick buildings and when they returned they strongly advocated the building of a brick instead of a frame church, but as they had made no investigation as to the cost of brick or the opportunities to secure brick for such purpose, the matter at this time was left for further consideration.

They again came to my father for another estimate for a brick church when he informed them that he could not give them an estimate for the reason that he had never built a brick church since the brick industry had not developed in the State of Ohio. Chimneys, fireplaces and foundations at that date were all made of quarry stones. The brick used were imported from England and had been so imported as far back as the year 1703. The first brick church of any note was at Alexandria, Virginia, which was built in the year 1705, being the church where Washington worshiped.

The Society insisted upon my father going east and investigating the brick proposition, which he did, going on horseback. There he became acquainted with men who were from England and knew how to make and lay brick. He secured the promise of three of these men to come West and meet the Society and the result was that the Society decided to build a brick church. The contract for the building of this church was awarded to my father, which included the foundation, the furnishing of the brick, the laying of

same and furnishing all materials for the completion of the structure for the sum of \$4,200.00.

The brick were burned in the summer of 1852, and the church was built in the year 1853. During the winter months of 1852 and 1853, he made the windows, the pulpit and the altar rail by hand. His helpers were his brother, John Stafford, Howard Mitchell and Valentine Pence. The bricks were burned on the farm of Howard Mitchell; the church was not completed until 1854. William H. Sterrett, then a boy of 13 years of age, helped haul the brick.

The church looks practically the same as when built, except the windows have been replaced with more beautiful ones; also the seating and the pulpit have been changed. In the early years of the occupancy of this church we always had two ministers.

Once we had a very tall man who had served one year as pastor, and the next year he had for his assistant, a very small man, so small that his head was a little above the Bible on the pulpit. He was a splendid minister, and when he went to conference he fully expected to be returned to the McKendree Society but was given another appointment.

While this preacher was at Conference my father lowered the pulpit believing that this minister would be returned and that such change would be exceedingly satisfactory to this small preacher.

The first Conference of the Methodist Church was held at Chillicothe, Ohio, and McKendree Society was attached to what was known as the "Addison Circuit" in the year 1851. The first presiding elder of this circuit was S. Loughton. The first class leader, Ralph Stafford, and the first Sunday School Superintendent, John Bruce.

By the law of the Methodist Church in early years of Methodism in Ohio and in other states, the salary of a single man, as pastor, was \$100.00 per year and of a married man as pastor, \$200.00 per year. It is said that if in the interim between sessions of annual conference a man should lose his wife by death he was immediately placed on the salary of a single man. It seems that no consideration was given by the Conference of the fact that he might have children to support. The celebrated Peter Cartwright reported that in the year 1806 he received \$40.00; that T. A. Morris, afterwards Bishop Morris, for 12 years received an average salary of \$106.00. It is said that in the days of Bishop Asbury, his salary was only \$64.00 per year. These ministers of the Gospel surely were imbued with the spirit of benefiting mankind rather than following the ministry for their subsistence.

It has been said "The old-time Methodist Preacher was a providential character and that to the world at large these itinerants

will stand as civilization builders. These preachers never for a moment let the nation forget God."

Among the class of early preachers of McKendree Society was the Rev. John G. Black. He was the first to suggest the former Home-coming in 1908. He gives the names of the early settlers who formed the first McKendree Society, which could not have been furnished by any other member of this community. He became a member of this church at the age of 17 years; was licensed to preach; four years later, preaching his first sermon at Tremont, in Clark County. At the time of the delivery of his splendid address on the early history of McKendree and its Society, at the former Home-coming, he was in his 85th year.

This Society owes much to the Rev. John G. Black for the information given on the subject, "The Pioneers of McKendree Chapel" at the Home-coming of 1908. Much of the early history of this Society would not have been known or preserved had it not been for the knowledge and presence of Mr. Black on that occasion and I here and now wish to pay tribute to his memory for the prominent part he took at the former Home-coming of this Society.

At our former meeting and Home-coming Rev. John G. Black, Aunt Malinda Deaton, Aunt Katherine Stafford, the daughter of Howard Mitchell who helped to erect this Church, were the only ones living of the early members of McKendree Society.

They have since answered the final call and joined their old pastor, Mr. Black, in Eternity. Of all the early prominent families connected with the organization of the McKendree Society three descendants only are now members and attendants at this Church; Mr. Quinn Mitchell, the only one of the large Mitchell family; Mr. Harley Stafford the grandson of George W. Stafford and wife; and Walter Stafford. No other representatives or relatives of the Mitchells, Blacks, Staffords, Deatons, Sterretts, Fullers or Robinsons, who helped to organize or were members of the original Society and for years active members of this Church, are now members representing their ancestors. The vicissitudes of life have called them elsewhere but we rejoice on their return to the old church of their ancestors to pay tribute to the founders of this Society.

As I review the past 80 years of McKendree and the noble citizenship of this community I am proud of the fact that my ancestors were members of this Society.

The founders of this Church were people of high ideals; friendly, honest and religious.

How the years have flown! What changes time hath wrought! All of the founders of this Society have answered the call and but few of the past generation remain to pay tribute to the memory of the grand and noble people who Sabbath after Sabbath gathered in

this old Church to worship God with all their power and soul.

The ashes of many repose in this cemetery, others elsewhere, but all, I believe, will be gathered at the Home-coming in the World Beyond.

Since the former Home-coming sadness and sorrow has come to many of us; many who joined with us and contributed much to the success of that occasion have passed beyond; and e're the meeting of another Home-coming, many of us will have passed from this earthly scene and will meet with us no more to join with the present McKendree Society in the Home-coming of after years.

I love this old country church and the people of this Society and join with you in praise of the grand record of old McKendree.

My parting words are: "Forget not the days of old, but remember the years of the past generations of McKendree Society.

Dated: September 19th, 1926."

FAMILY OF MARGARET AND JOHN BLACK

Margaret, daughter of George, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, was commonly called "Peggy." She was born in Clark County, Ohio, January 20th, 1810, and married John Black, a resident of the same county. They moved to Indiana in the year 1837 and settled in Delaware County. It is said that his first purchase was one acre of land for which he traded the owner three sheep pelts. Later he became the owner of severall hundred acres.

Peggy was noted for her industry and business ability. She contributed much towards her husband's success in acquiring considerable property. She made frequent visits to her aged mother during the later years of her life as well as to other relatives in Ohio. She was always a most welcome visitor and the connection seemed to have a holiday during her stay with them. They had four children: Andrew, Susan, George and Catherine.

Andrew Black married Mary Fishburn; by this union there were born to them, David, who married Lucella Thomas; John F., who married Sarah Elizabeth Shannon; Martha J., who married Andrew Clark; and Margaret, who married Henry Brammer. They also had a daughter Catherine who died unmarried and a daughter, Caroline, who died in infancy.

After the death of Andrew's first wife, he married Christine Peterson, of Greene County, Ohio. By this marriage there were born Moses Black, who is a bachelor; Charles Irvin, who married Susan McDonald; Mary Ellen, who married William Bryant; Charles died in 1903.

Andrew Black was reared on a farm, and learned the trade of milling. He became the owner of three hundred and sixty-five acres of land, including the old homestead, and the old mill property. The mill in those days was considered very valuable property and was noted for its capacity of turning out twenty-five barrels of flour per day in addition to grinding corn and other feed. The mill has lately been razed.

Mr. Black was a very active business man and a good financier. His wife, Mary E., died October 6th, 1868, and he followed her in death February 25th, 1869. They were both members of the Methodist Church.

David Black, son of Margaret, was a carpenter by trade, and few excelled him in fine workmanship. He was an invalid for years and died in middle life.

John F. Black, son of Andrew and Mary Black, resides in Delaware Township, being a neighbor of William H. Black. He and Mr. Black from boyhood days have been like brothers and during their long intimacy can boast of the fact that no controversy has ever

arisen between them to mar their friendly relations. Mr. Black's wife, Sarah Elizabeth, died in August, 1924. He is a farmer and stock raiser and by his energy and skill has become the owner of one of the valuable farms of his township.

I cannot forget the pleasant visit I had with John F. Black and William H. Black about two years ago. No one could have been better entertained than I was on that occasion. We had a splendid dinner at William Black's home which was quite appetizing to me, for a hungry hound was I. The day was spent in pleasant conversation and reminiscences of early days. John F. and Sarah Elizabeth Black had four children, viz: May, who married Eli Smith; Tena who married Harvey Stafford; Amos, who married a Miss Storer, and Gene who married Miss Shaffer.

The daughter, Martha J., who married Andrew Black, had three children: Willis, who married Pearl McNelly; Roy and Fred. She was noted for her industry and religious inclinations. She departed this life in 1924.

The daughter Margaret, who resides on a farm is one of the sociable and friendly women of the Black family.

Moses Black, son of Andrew Black, by his second wife, is a most estimable gentleman and noted for his business ability, being engaged in the banking business in the city of Muncie. He is one of the prominent Masons of his city. The daughter, Ellen, resides in the city of Muncie, Indiana. She (her husband being deceased) and her brother, Moses Black, reside together in perfect harmony.

Susannah Justice, daughter of Peggy and John Black, is deceased. She and her husband, David Justice are buried in Black's cemetery.

George Justice, son of Susannah and David Justice, married Mattie Smith. They have the following children: Roy and Laura. Mr. Justice is one of the active and energetic business men of the town of Albany, Indiana. Engaged for many years in the grocery business, he stood ready at all times to feed the hungry and satisfy and cater to the appetites of all the Staffords, Blacks, and other residents of his town.

Truly can it be said of him that he is one of the hospitable and sociable members of the connection, always attending the reunions of the different families having the best time of anyone. A meeting of the Stafford and Black families would not be a success without his presence for he is the real life of the crowd. He and his wife are Methodists, members of the church at Albany.

Margaret, daughter of Susannah, known as "Peggy", resides on a farm west of Albany, which is one of the splendid farms of the community. She and her husband live a quiet and happy life. They have one child, Roscoe, and are members of Delaware Chapel.

Caroline married Gyp. Cartwrite. I have no acquaintance with Caroline, or Mary who married Nelson Adams. Her husband died many years ago. She has two children, one son, Wayman Adams, who resides in the city of New York, an artist by profession; and a daughter, Nettie Adams Coalston, who resides in the town of Portland, Indiana.

George Black, son of Margaret and John Black, never married. He enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, and died in Mound City, Illinois, in 1864.

Catherine, daughter of Peggy and John Black, first married James Barrett. They had the following children: Andres, who died in infancy, and John Barrett who married Miss Lily Allison. Catherine was commonly called "Kit" and went by that name. Her second husband was Robert Brammer. She died in 1912, and is buried in Black's cemetery. She was a favorite of the entire connection and the height of her enjoyment was to be surrounded by her friends and relatives. Disease seized her which terminated her life after many long years of extreme suffering, and every member of the connection sympathized with her in her long years of distress. Her husband, Robert Brammer, spared no act of kindness to alleviate the sufferings of his good wife.

FAMILY OF RUTHIE BLACK AND WILLIAM BLACK

Ruthie Stafford, a daughter of George and Catherine Fair Stafford, was born in the log house erected by her father in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, June 13, 1816. She married William Black, November 14, 1833, she being at that time seventeen years of age. The event occurred at the home of her father, Mr. and Mrs. Black, after their marriage, remained in Ohio a very short time. On the 23rd day of March, 1834, they started for their new home in the State of Indiana, locating in Delaware County. With them they took three horses, four cows, one wagon, a plow, harrow, flour, meat, cooking utensils, a few rough chairs, a bed and a table. They went by the way of Troy, thence across the country to Winchester, thence to Muncie and from there to their land in Delaware County. After passing Greenfield the roads were almost impassable and they were compelled to hire a man with a yoke of oxen to haul a portion of their goods a number of miles. This man with this ox team assisted them three days and received for his services and use of team, the sum of three dollars. They were eight days on the road. The cabin was built a short time before they arrived by Mr. Black who had gone there and erected it prior to their marriage.

The cabin was sixteen by eighteen feet, with one door, one window and a puncheon floor, with a clapboard door and roof. The chimney was built of mud and sticks. Here was their home surrounded by woods on every hand with no families residing in the vicinity save the Indians who frequently called on them. Wolves prowled about their little cabin, yet Ruthie, only a girl of seventeen years, possessed the courage and determination of a warrior and braved every danger, making the little log cabin the happiest place on earth to her husband and herself.

At that time there were but few houses and few white people living between their place and Ft. Wayne. Their nearest neighbors lived across the Mississineway River. There were no roads, nothing but paths. It is said the county seat, Muncie, at that time had only seven houses. The first year they cleared four acres of land and planted it in corn. They had none for sale but used it all to live on, saving some seed for the ensuing year. They lived for nearly sixty years on this farm, two hundred and forty acres of which had been cleared and placed in a fine state of cultivation. The present substantial brick building on this farm, with other buildings, were erected by Mr. and Mrs. Black.

Mr. Black was an exceedingly industrious man, and his wife contributed much to assist him in the improvement of the farm and the erection of the buildings now found thereon. They were both

Methodists and took much interest in that organization where they attended services for many years in a log church. Mr. Black died May 3rd, 1891, aged seventy-nine years, eight months, twenty days.

In August 1898 in company with my Uncle Joseph Irvin Stafford I visited Aunt Ruthy and was given an outline of the route on their emigration to Indiana. She pointed out to us the location of the first log cabin, the place of the first church in the neighborhood, and she was especially interested in referring to the trials and hardships they endured for a number of years after they first settled on the tract of land referred to and on which she then resided.

She spoke feelingly of her church and the many revivals and church labors among her old friends and neighbors, most all of whom had passed away at the time of our visit. On that date a reunion of the Stafford and Black families was held at Eaton Park and among those who attended no one seemed to enjoy the occasion more than she. A letter was referred to which she had written to her mother, Catherine Fair Stafford, dated February 5th, 1844, and which is as follows:

"State of Indiana, Delaware County,
February 5th, 1844.

My affectionate mother, with respect to you and pleasure to myself, I embrace this opportunity of informing you by the way of letter to let you know that we are all well at present and hope when these lines come to hand they may find you enjoying the same blessing. I have but little news worth writing, but that the first is, we are all well. Margaret Jane has got an ugly sore on her head. We had her down to the doctor today, and he said that he can cure it without any difficulty, and made up some medicine for it. He says that unless stopped it will go all over her head. I must let you know what I have been doing in the last year. I have wove about one hundred yards, and I spun 20 dozen of thread and have got it all made up, and cured three times of the Each, and not well of it yet, and I am now ready to begin on a good crop of flax and I want to get it and the wool worked up against next fall that I can come to see you next fall if we all keep well. Elizabeth and I are going to try weaving a piece of table linen and if I can't get it right, I want you to come over and some afternoon show me how to do it. We have had a very open and wet winter here, till since the boys left here, and since, it has been very cold. But more pleasant and no snow yet. Margaret Jane and Susanna Elizabeth, our dear grandmother, we want to let you know that we help our mother to do a heap of work. Last week one day we made each of us a shirt, and mother said they was made first rate, and we love to see Catherine Fair talk a great deal about her grandmother and that of going to live with her.

I must inform you of the prosperity of the church in this country at the present time at a protracted meeting in

Granville in progression. While the boys was here there was seven joined the church and at New Salem last Sunday week, at a protracted meeting there, there was 15 joined the church and at other meetings around the circuit equal success. A quarterly meeting commencing next Friday at New Bethel one mile and a half from Brother Josephs which we want to attend, no preventing Providence. I must tell you my dear mother, that by the Grace of God, I am bound to make my way to Heaven if we meet no more on earth. I hope to meet you all in Heaven where parting will be no more forever. I must bring my letter to a close by commending you to the Word of God and His Grace. Nothing more at present, but remain your affectionate children until death.

Wm. & Ruthy Black to Catherine Stafford."

This letter caused considerable laughter but Aunt Ruthy, who was at the time occupying a place on the platform with the speakers, seemed to enjoy it as much if not more than others of the audience.

Ruthy Black died September 25th, 1903, being the last survivor of the family of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford. She and her husband are buried in Black's cemetery in Delaware County, Indiana.

They had the following children: Margaret Jane; Susan Elizabeth; James; Catherine; Sarah Ellen; Marietta; Selina E.; Martha; Annetta and William H. Black.

Margaret Jane first married Allen Abbott. After his decease she married Dudley Hance who died a few years after their marriage and she then married Cyrus St. John. She had no children by either of her husbands. She died at the age of 82 years.

Susan Elizabeth married William Pace who died April 12th, 1893. They had two children, Mary Emma who married Gus Williams, and William E. Pace who at this writing is unmarried. Susan Elizabeth Pace died April 3rd, 1893.

James Black first married Catherine Fishburne. They had three children: Emma who married Edward Hallcraft; Ruthie Ella who married John Moore, and Charley Black who died in infancy. On the death of his wife James married Elizabeth Brammer. The children of the second wife were Hattie who died in infancy; Findley E., who married Emma Scott; William E. Black and Cora Black.

Catherine married Aaron Brammer. They had the following children: Flora who married Robert Gaston; Charles; Laura who married Frank Tuscon; and Aaron Brammer. The daughter, Sarah Ellen, died in infancy.

Marietta married John Richie. They had seven children, viz: William E., who married Cora Heshner; Elizabeth, who married Edward Moore; Allen, who married Augusta Bartlett; Elmer, who mar-



AUNT RUTHY BLACK

ried Nettie Dill; James, who married Irene Johnson; Carl, who married Verdia Bartlett; and Ruthie, who married Dr. Gus Esch.

Selina E. married Henley Brammer. They had one child, only, William, who married Clara Peterson. Martha Black died in infancy. Anetta married George W. Yountz. Mr. Yountz died June, 1906. They had one child Laura, who married Charles Rickertt.

Mr. and Mrs. Yountz were frugal people and acquired considerable property which passed to the daughter on their decease. Mrs. Yountz, though greatly afflicted during her latter years, always held her family in high esteem and was much attached to her grandchildren. Just a short time before her death, knowing that her grandson Irvin desired to procure a team of horses and harness, she purchased the same and presented them to him.

Her family greatly appreciated her and there was no lack of attention by her daughter and her husband to make her closing hours as comfortable as possible. Her daughter and husband reside in the old homestead where she died, and as members of the community enjoy the confidence and respect of all their acquaintances.

William E. Black, the youngest of the family of Ruthie and William Black, resides on the farm settled by his father and mother. He married Emma F. Miller.

They have two children, Tully L., who married Miss Elizabeth Mendenhall, and William Murray, at this writing unmarried. Mr. Black has devoted his entire life to farming and stock raising, and few if any of the members of his community surpass him in good husbandry.

A number of years ago he met with a sad misfortune which terminated in the amputation of his right hand. The loss of this member has been a great detriment to him in the pursuits of his calling. Notwithstanding, he has continued his energy and maintained his ability to be one of the most successful farmers of the neighborhood. Mr. Black is one of the beloved members of the Stafford and Black families.

His home has been a most welcome place to his kinship from Ohio and no visit is made by any of his relatives from Ohio that they fail to visit William H. Black and his family. His social intercourse with his neighbors and relatives has always been cordial and much appreciated. He lives a modest and unpretentious life and truly can it be said of him that it has been exemplary in the highest degree.

His wife, Emma, has been to him a true helpmate and exerted every effort to assist her faithful husband in the pursuits of life. She is notable for her industry and good judgment in the affairs of her household. She too commands the highest respect of her friends and relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Black are both Methodists and active in religious circles.

FAMILY OF RALPH STAFFORD, JR., AND JANE STAFFORD

Ralph Stafford, Jr., was a son of George and Catherine Fair Stafford. He was only five years old when his parents came to Clark County, Ohio. He was born May 8th, 1806.

He married Jane Black who was born in Clark County, Ohio, May 30th, 1815. In his younger days he followed the trade of tanner and also of shoemaker under the supervision of an uncle with whom he lived for a few years. He moved to the State of Indiana in 1835, locating in Delaware County. He had visited that county the previous year and entered 160 acres of land on which he built a log cabin with puncheon floor.

At the time of his death he was the owner of nearly five hundred acres of land located in Delaware County. He never held any office except Trustee of the Township. He died August 12th, 1876. His wife survived him until September 21st, 1888, when she departed this life. They were members of the Methodist Church and are buried in Black's cemetery.

They had the following children: George A. Stafford; James E. Stafford; John H. Stafford; William H. Stafford and Susan Stafford.

George A. Stafford was born November 23rd, 1835, and married Sarah Zainer. He received his education in the country schools, and learned the trade of tanner which he followed until 24 years of age, and then engaged in the pursuit of farming renting the land of his father. At the time of his marriage he was the owner of 280 acres of fine land, and at his death was a large land owner as well as the owner of city property in Muncie. He was probably the wealthiest one of the connection at the date of his death.

In politics he was a Republican and very aggressive in the interests of his party. He was also a member of the Masonic Order, and connected with the banking business in the city of Muncie. As a business man he was a success and regarded as a man of fine judgment.

George A. Stafford and his wife had four children: David Stafford, who died in early life unmarried; Sarah Stafford who married Cora Markwell; Roy Stafford, who married Effie Smith, she being now deceased; and Emma, who married Noah Brammer.

James E. Stafford, son of Ralph and Jane Stafford, was born February 11th, 1840, in Delaware County, Indiana. His education was largely obtained in the country schools. On arriving at the age of manhood he taught school several terms in Delaware Township. He was the owner of one of the finest farms in the township under whose good management it became very valuable. He resided on the

farm until 1883 when he engaged in the hardware business in the town of Albany, continuing in that business for a number of years. Later he was connected with the Albany Furniture Company and other business interests of the town. He was an enterprising citizen and contributed much to the development of the town of his residence.

He married Miss Caroline Russell, a daughter of John and Susanna Russell, of Columbiana County, Ohio, on October 5th, 1807. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford are both deceased and buried in Black's cemetery. They had one daughter, Laura Helen, who married Dr. Grant Powers, an eminent physician of the town in which they reside.

The daughter is an accomplished musician. Mr. and Mrs. Powers have one child, Caroline Powers.

John H. Stafford, son of Ralph and Jane Stafford, was born September 27th, 1842. He married Rachael Walburn November 13th, 1875. His wife was born September 24th, 1852, being the daughter of Jefferson and Rebecca Walburn.

Rachael died February 12th, 1918, and is buried in Black's cemetery. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford had no children. Mr. Stafford enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, May 12th, 1864, Company G. 134th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was made 5th sargeant of the company which was recruited in his county. He did service in the army in the States of Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. He was mustered out of service September 8th, 1864. His record as a soldier is highly commendible and his private life unimpeachable. He is the oldest living Stafford or Black today, being past 84 years of age. He resides on his well-kept farm in a commodious residence and enjoys the country life. He is a jolly old fellow, indeed, and my visit to him more than a year ago, was one of pleasure and much interest as he related to me his experience in early life and in the War.

I was greatly amused in listening to him relate the kind of rations they had in the war and, especially, when he described how they were fed on tomatoes. I trust I will not offend him, should he be living at the date of the publication of this volume by referring to the incident that occurred in Indianapolis when he was returning from the War. Some gamblers in that city knowing of the return of the soldiers, were on the watch for them, and John was approached and invited to go back into a room where a number had congregated to see what was going on and, accepting their kind invitation, he joined them and when he entered this back room he found a number of men engaged in a game of dice; so John participated in the game, and in less time than you could say "Jack Robinson" he lost twenty dollars which cured him forever of playing dice.

He has filled a number of offices of trust, among them: County Councilman for four years; Advisory Board of Delaware

Township, and School Director a number of years; each of which were filled with much credit to himself and general satisfaction to his constituents.

He was never sued and never sued anybody, however, in 1864, it is said that he sometimes violated the fishing laws, but that is so long ago, and in the days of his youth, which surely ought not to discredit his reputation as a law-abiding citizen.

He is one of the connection who enjoys the reunions and seldom is he absent from the annual meeting. Like George Justice, he contributes much to the merriment of the day, and never fails to have some good story to relate to his friends while the dinner is in preparation by the ladies.

William H. Stafford, son of Ralph and Jane Stafford, was born February 4th, 1848, in Delaware Township, Indiana. His education was obtained in the country schools. His boyhood days were spent on the farm of his father. The farm he now owns was the home of his father and mother. He married Jennie Knox on May 18th, 1879, a resident of Delaware Township. She was a daughter of John and Madeline Knox, residents of Hamilton Township, Delaware County, Indiana. They had born to them two children: Leonard Irvin Staf-

born April 25th, 1897 and died August 15th, 1898; a daughter Norah who married Everett St. John. Mr. and Mrs. St. John have four children: Helen, Ralph, Charles and Richard. Mr. St. John, father of these children, was killed by accident January 22nd, 1923. He was one of the leading men of Albany Ind., where he resided, was much interested in religious work, and superintendent of the Sabbath School of the Methodist Church, at the time of his death.

When William was about fifteen years of age he became very much imbued with the spirit of loyalty to the Stars and Stripes and arrived at the conclusion that he could kill "Johnnies" as well as any other Northern man, so he proceeded to Indianapolis, a recruiting station, for the purpose of enlisting as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion. When about to be sworn in, having represented to the recruiting officer that he was over the age of eighteen years, his father appeared on the scene and objected to his enlistment, informing the officer that he was under the age of eighteen years. The officer immediately replied that the boy had sworn to a lie if that was true, but the officer believing the father's statement as to his age, William was turned over to parental custody and immediately waltzed back to his home in Delaware County. The mental agony that he endured for some time after this occurrence was not generally known in the community, however, William was of the opinion that he would be prosecuted for misrepresenting his age and for some time was on the watch for an officer of the law to take him into custody.

He had always been a radical Republican and a strong advo-

cate of prohibition and is to be commended for his zealousness in support of the principles of each. However, it was rumored some years ago throughout the neighborhood that while he was in attendance at a Republican rally he had the misfortune of having a bottle broken in his pocket, which resulted in the contents thereof running down one of his legs at a speed not equalled by the Falls of Niagara, and to this day the connection have not been fully satisfied as to what the contents of that bottle really were.

It is said that he once engaged in a very heated debate on the subject of woman's suffrage. This was before his marriage to Miss Knox. He admits he did the best he could on that occasion, and being enamoured of Miss Knox who was present at the time, his efforts on that occasion resulted in their engagement.

His wife was a faithful helpmate to him for many years and they spent many pleasant hours together. They were much interested in their daughter who was a graduate of the high school of the town and a teacher in the public schools prior to her marriage.

Mrs. Stafford died March 28th, 1912. They were Methodists and members of that church in the town of their residence. He, like others of the Stafford family, meets annually with the Staffords and Blacks at their reunions. He hugely enjoys the occasion, and like his brother John, indulges in good jokes and stories which are quite interesting. He has been a careful business man and acquired a competency sufficient to retire from active business and spend his closing days in comfort.

Susan Stafford, the daughter of Ralph and Jane Stafford, was born February 3rd, 1855, and died March 20th, 1879. She married Enoch Witt. They had one son, Roy Witt. It is impossible for me to give any details of her life, however, from relatives and friends, I am informed that she was an ambitious and highly respected lady.

FAMILY OF RALPH STAFFORD, SR., AND CATHERINE STAFFORD

Ralph Stafford, Sr., son of James Stafford and Nancy Eaton Stafford, first came to Ohio in 1805, being at that time accompanied by his brother Joseph. Ralph married Catherine Saylor, a resident of Miami County. He first built his cabin near where a distillery once stood, known as "Staley's, on Indian Creek, in Miami County, was the first of the Staffords who made a settlement in Ohio, and probably the first Black, unless it was Andrew or Samuel Black, who settled in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, the same year.

Ralph Stafford, Sr., never engaged in any business except farming; at least no information has been obtained to the contrary. Ralph Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Saylor Stafford had nine children viz: George J. Stafford; Jacob Stafford; John W. Stafford; James Stafford; Samuel Stafford; Nancy Stafford; Eve Stafford; Margaret Stafford and Elizabeth Stafford.

The son, George J. Stafford, heretofore mentioned, married Elizabeth Stafford, a daughter of James Stafford known as "Squire Jimmie." Their children were Joel Stafford, Emma S. Black, Mary M. Deaton and Anna Sutton, each of whom have been spoken of as children of Elizabeth Stafford. The son, Jacob Stafford, married Sarah Forgy who was a member of the prominent Forgy family of Bethel Township, Clark County, Ohio. Jacob Stafford was a very energetic man and a farmer by occupation. He owned a farm adjoining that of his brother, George J. Stafford, in Pike Township. He and his wife were much respected by their acquaintances and were active members of the Methodist church of New Carlisle.

Jacob and Sarah Stafford had born to them the following children: Mary, who married James Johnson; they had one child, Frank J. Johnson; Melissa, who married Frank Buswell, and had the following children: Charles, Fanny, Lily, Scott, William Stafford, who married Samantha Saylor, one child, Herbert Stafford being born to them; and Algernon Stafford, who married Florence Gilbert.

The daughter, Mary Johnson, was an active member of the Methodist Church of New Carlisle. For some years after her marriage she resided in Miami County, but on the decease of her husband she moved to her parents' home, later becoming the owner of the entire farm where she spent the remainder of her days in the homestead of her parents. Her father and mother preceded her in death a number of years, leaving her and her son the occupants of the homestead.

Mary Johnson was one of the beloved women of the community and regarded by the entire connection and the neighborhood in which she lived as a consistent christian woman. She was indeed a

most industrious woman and spared no efforts in caring for her father and mother during their latter years.

She died December 29, 1908, at the old homestead. Her funeral was held at the home and probably was the largest gathering ever assembled in that neighborhood to pay the last tribute of respect to an honored citizen. Probably no relative or acquaintance was absent on that day. The services were conducted in part by Rev. John G. Black, once her pastor and long-time friend, and many were the expressions in after years by those who were present, referring to his prayer at her funeral. It was a sermon within itself and the life she had lived merited all that was said of her in tribute of a well spent life.

John W. Stafford, son of Ralph Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Saylor Stafford, married Ellen Mitchell, his first wife. They had born to them, J. Corwin Stafford and Anthony S. Stafford. I do not recall having ever seen John W. Stafford or his wife, therefore I know little of them except through hearsay. They first settled near McKendree Church where his wife died. Later he married Nanny Cairns, when he and his wife located in New Carlisle. After the death of John, his wife moved to Troy where she died.

John W. Stafford and Ellen Mitchell Stafford were Methodists. The son, J. Corwin Stafford, married Louisa McNeal, a daughter of Daniel McNeal, of Miami County. Corwin and his wife had two children born to them: William E. Stafford, who resides in Dayton, Ohio, and Charles Stafford, who died a number of years ago.

J. Corwin in his youthful days was one of the popular young men of the community. He was, indeed, a jovial and entertaining companion. He enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, Company 110-O. V. and served as a soldier until the close of the War, when he was honorably discharged. He was under the command of General J. Warren Keifer who has frequently spoken to me of the services rendered by Corwin while in the army. He has said to me: "He was indeed a fine soldier."

He followed the business of stock-buying which proved unsuccessful from a financial standpoint. His wife, Louisa, died in the year 1878. Many years after her death he married again. The name of his second wife I do not know.

Corwin died in the year 1924. He probably had his faults and did not manifest as much interest in the connection as he should have done, yet to me he was always a friend and I cannot recall a time when he could do me a favor or assist me during my connection with politics, that he did not do so.

"Be to his faults a little blind,
But to his virtues, very kind."

He was a democrat from the time he returned from the army and the only one of the Staffords to my knowledge who has been identified with that party. However, my differing with him politically in no wise affected his interest in my welfare or willingness to aid me whenever he could, and truly can I say that I have been grateful to him during our long acquaintance.

Anthony S. Stafford married Maggie Pence, as heretofore referred to. He spent his latter days in New Carlisle where he lived alone. He was much interested in the reunions of the different families and seldom failed to attend these meetings. He died in 1926 and is buried beside his wife in New Carlisle cemetery.

James Stafford, who was generally known as "One thumbed Jim", married Margaret North, a resident of Pike Township. He spent his latter years in New Carlisle. They had born to them four children, viz: Ollie Stafford, William E. Stafford, Verley Stafford and Louisa Stafford.

Ollie and Verley Stafford were among the popular young men of New Carlisle where they lived until they arrived at the age of majority. Few were the entertainments or parties of a social character that they were not present as they were among the entertaining and highly agreeable young men of the town.

Samuel Stafford, son of Ralph and Catherine Saylor Stafford, was born December 28th, 1808, near New Carlisle, Ohio. He married Melissa Cory, who was born February 22nd, 1815. They were married May 20th, 1834. Shortly after their marriage Mr. Stafford and his wife lived in a small frame house located just inside the limits of Osborn, Greene County, Ohio. Mr. Stafford erected a flour mill and also a distillery near the house of their residence. It is said that these buildings were erected in the year 1846 or 1847, however, I may be incorrect as to these dates.

The mill was operated by water power and was a brick structure considered in those days a valuable asset. He operated this mill and distillery for many years, which proved a very profitable business investment. His flour mill was the market for almost all the wheat for miles around. He had patrons extending as far north as New Carlisle. The little town of Osborn was at that time, and for many years afterward, a flourishing village. Having two railroads it was the chief shipping point of grain and stock for miles around. Mr. Stafford was one of the leading business men of the town and with his splendid mill and distillery, was one of the influential and active business men of the community.

Some years after their location at Osborn he erected a brick house which in its days was considered one of the most palatial residences found in any small town of the country. They were members of the New Carlisle Christian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford died at

Osborn, Ohio, and are buried in the cemetery located there.

They had the following children: Hannah M., who married Thomas Smith; David Cory Stafford who married Jane Maxwell; Elnathan Stafford who married Martha Aspenwall; and Martha M., who first married George Brake and after his death, married Charles H. Neff, a former resident of New Carlisle and a son of Dr. B. F. Neff, who for many years was a druggist of that town. Mrs. Martha M. Neff is a member of Fort Findlay Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, as was also her sister, Hannah M. Smith.

It is said that Samuel Stafford was an extremely kind-hearted man and one who had a great interest in the welfare of his family. No member of his family needed assistance but that he stood ready to aid in any manner within his power.

They have been a family much attached to each other and no discord has arisen among them. The son, Elnathan, was a farmer near Findlay, Ohio, where he died in 1923.

The daughter, Hannah, was a regular attendant for many years at the reunions of the Staffords and Blacks, and was much ad-

A CORRECTION

An error was made by the printer in the fifth paragraph on page 81, referring to Eve Stafford. This paragraph should read as follows:

Eve Stafford, a daughter of Ralph Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Stafford, first married Rowland Black. After his death, she married Joseph Stafford, of Indiana. She is referred to in connection with his biography.

Following this a paragraph was omitted, which should have read as follows:

Elizabeth Stafford, daughter of Ralph Sr., and Catherine Stafford, married John Stafford. Their children were Joseph W. Stafford, Samuel E. Stafford; Catherine Stafford, Margaret Stafford, Sarah Stafford and George S. Stafford, each of whom I have referred to in the short sketch of the family of John Stafford and his wife.

munity. They had one daughter, Lena, her present name being who resides in New Carlisle. In the paper found in this volume, written by Mrs. Laura C. Scarff, reference is made to Malinda Vorhees and her daughter, therefore I make no further reference to them

James Q. Mitchell, son of Nancy and Howard Mitchell, married Susanna Moore. They had nine children, viz: Marcellus, Allister, who died in infancy; Charley who died in infancy; Viola, John, Ruth, William, May and Joseph.

He was a democrat from the time he returned from the army and the only one of the Staffords to my knowledge who has been identified with that party. However, my differing with him politically in no wise affected his interest in my welfare or willingness to aid me whenever he could, and truly can I say that I have been grateful to him during our long acquaintance.

Anthony S. Stafford married Maggie Pence, as heretofore referred to. He spent his latter days in New Carlisle where he lived alone. He was much interested in the reunions of the different families and seldom failed to attend these meetings. He died in 1926 and is buried beside his wife in New Carlisle cemetery.

James Stafford, who was generally known as "One thumbed Jim", married Margaret North, a resident of Pike Township. He spent his latter years in New Carlisle. They had born to them four children, viz: Ollie Stafford, William E. Stafford, Verley Stafford and Louisa Stafford.

Ollie and Verley Stafford were among the popular young men of New Carlisle where they lived until they arrived at the age of majority. Few were the entertainers of the town.

many years afterward, a flourishing village. Having two railroads it was the chief shipping point of grain and stock for miles around. Mr. Stafford was one of the leading business men of the town and with his splendid mill and distillery, was one of the influential and active business men of the community.

Some years after their location at Osborn he erected a brick house which in its days was considered one of the most palatial residences found in any small town of the country. They were members of the New Carlisle Christian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Stafford died at

Osborn, Ohio, and are buried in the cemetery located there.

They had the following children: Hannah M., who married Thomas Smith; David Cory Stafford who married Jane Maxwell; Elnathan Stafford who married Martha Aspenwall; and Martha M., who first married George Brake and after his death, married Charles H. Neff, a former resident of New Carlisle and a son of Dr. B. F. Neff, who for many years was a druggist of that town. Mrs. Martha M. Neff is a member of Fort Findlay Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, as was also her sister, Hannah M. Smith.

It is said that Samuel Stafford was an extremely kind-hearted man and one who had a great interest in the welfare of his family. No member of his family needed assistance but that he stood ready to aid in any manner within his power.

They have been a family much attached to each other and no discord has arisen among them. The son, Elnathan, was a farmer near Findlay, Ohio, where he died in 1923.

The daughter, Hannah, was a regular attendant for many years at the reunions of the Staffords and Blacks, and was much admired by the relatives and friends as she was a funmaker and a jolly woman, indeed. She was sometimes called the "Wit of the crowd."

Eve Stafford a daughter of Ralph Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Stafford, married John Stafford. Their children were Joseph W. Stafford, Samuel E. Stafford; Catherine Stafford, Margaret Stafford, Sarah Stafford and George S. Stafford, each of whom I have referred to in the short sketch of the family of John Stafford and wife.

Nancy Stafford married Howard Mitchell, a resident of Miami County, Ohio. They lived on a farm in that county and were members of the McKendree Society. They are buried in that cemetery. Nancy and Howard had the following children: Catherine, who married Findley Stafford. Mention is made of their family in connection with the family of Findley and his wife.

Ellen married William Robison. They had two children, Asbury Robinson, and Kitty who married Henry Schump.

Malinda, who married Charles Vorhees, a resident of Miami County. He was a member of one of the early families of that community. They had one daughter, Ella, her present name being Fross, who resides in New Carlisle. In the paper found in this volume, written by Mrs. Laura C. Scarff, reference is made to Malinda Vorhees and her daughter, therefore I make no further reference to them.

James Q. Mitchell, son of Nancy and Howard Mitchell, married Susanna Moore. They had nine children, viz: Marcellus, Allister, who died in infancy; Charley who died in infancy; Viola, John, Ruth, William, May and Joseph.

Viola married Peter Hale, their children being Bessie, Ethel and John; John married Malinda Snyder, their children are Brownie, Nellie and Lula; Ruth married George Perry; William married Etta Stine, their children are Howard, John and Emma; May married Charles Sawyer; and Joseph married Sarah Saylor, their children are Wilbert, Darius, Alpheas and Joseph.

Margaret Stafford, a daughter of Ralph Sr., and Catherine Stafford, married William Thomas. They lived and resided on a farm near Logansport, Indiana. They have the following children: George, Giles, Charles, William, Samuel, Martha and Annetta.

George Thomas married Grizzy Black. They have five children: Ernest, Thomas, Bertha, Frank and May. Charles Thomas married Jeannetta Beal. Their children are: Mabel, Ursula, Enlah and Margaret. Giles Thomas married a lady unknown to the connection, however, we are informed they had a daughter whose name is Olive.

William Thomas married Retta Miller. They had one child, Newton Thomas. Samuel Thomas married Sally Canabaker. They have two children, Fielding and Jane. Martha Thomas married a Mr. Oblinger. Annetta Thomas married Strite Bailey. It is said they have one daughter, but her name is unknown.

I have no information regarding this family and therefore I cannot furnish any history connected with them, other than stated.

FAMILY OF JOSEPH STAFFORD AND EVE BLACK STAFFORD

Joseph Stafford, son of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, was born December 3rd, 1814, in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, on the farm settled by his father. His opportunities to obtain an education were quite meager, and his chief occupation was farming.

He married Eve Black, the widow of Rowland Black. Eve Stafford's maiden name was also Stafford, she being a sister of George J. Stafford, a son of Ralph Stafford. He settled in Nile's Township, Indiana, on two hundred and thirty-six acres of land in the year 1838. In the year 1839, he built a log house on this tract of land, and later, in 1840, after his marriage, moved on same. Practically his entire tract of land was forest, and the woods at that time were alive with squirrels which were so numerous that most all the crops of the early farmer were devoured by them. About the year 1841 various other settlements had been made throughout the township and the early settlers made an effort to exterminate the squirrels, so they met at a place called "Sharon" where the settlers, appointing a captain for each company, when they were assigned to different parts of the township for a general squirrel hunt on that day and ordered to report at Sharon at four o'clock. Joseph Stafford received the second prize on that occasion, having killed the second highest number. On that day the various companies killed two thousand and one hundred squirrels. Joseph and Eve Stafford resided on this farm until the death of each. On December 2nd, 1842, Joseph and Eve wrote to Findley Stafford—Joseph's brother—the following letter which described their buildings and farm:

"Delaware City, Indiana.
Dec. 2nd., 1842.

Dear Sir:-

I embrace the present of writing to you to let you know how we are getting along. We are all well and the rest of our friends here, so far as I know, hoping when these lines come to hand they may find you & all of the friends enjoying the same blessing.

I have nothing strange to tell you further than I have to rise a little sooner than I used to other winters. We have had two weeks of very severe weather here. It came too soon for me. While the good weather lasted I was working in the deadening. I have about three acres cleared off smoothe and the logs are pretty much burned off. I have about fifteen hundred rails split. I fenced up about a quarter of an acre around the house in the spring. I dug out the spring up further and it of course affords plenty of water.

I have put up a smoke house 10x12 ft. hued logs. I have logs for a stable 16x17 cut, and almost all hauled with what board timber I have cut I will have about twelve or thirteen hundred boards when split. I put up a corn crib sixteen ft. long. I have 100 bushels in it at 15 cts. per bushel. I have fifty more engaged at the same price. Soon after you left here I put up a temporary stable for my ponies. They work very well. Can is pretty galy till I get him warmed up. I built two sleds, a long one and a short one & that is the amount of work I have done since you left here. We thought you should lose all sleigh riding. We went to John Black's in our sleigh last Sunday. They came to see us and spent one day with us. When they went home some one had taken 10 Dollars out of their bureau, five of silver that I gave him & five of straight script, supposed to be his nearest neighbor, who left the next week.

I must tell you how I like to live here. I am better satisfied than I thought I would be although when I begin to think back to my old place of residence it makes me feel a little down spirited. Sundays has been the worst time on me yet. We have not been to meeting but one time since we come out. Our neighbors so far as we have had any dealings appear to be very well satisfied. We have had right smart of company here. Wm. and Ruthy was here last night. We enjoyed ourselves well together. Tell brother James I will look for him when the roads get froze hard. I would be pleased to give any of you room around my fire place.

I must conclude my letter as I had not much to write in the start. I would like to hear from you all. Write to me as soon as you can make it suit and let me know how you have got along since you left here, and how you and Valentine got along with the corn and what the prospects of selling grain will be in the Spring. If you can sell them cattle for near the worth of them, let them go, as times has taken such a change we can't expect to make anything on them. John Black sold twenty-two head of his best cattle for ninety dollars. I would call that a fair sale, but had not enough to winter them.

Amanda says she would like to set on your lap and pull your whiskers. Excuse my bad spelling and writing. Give my respects to mother, brothers and sisters, also to Thomas, Richard and George J.

Yours respectfully,

To Findley Stafford.

Joseph Stafford.
Evy Stafford.

Evy is writing to Margaret and she says she will write to her mother as soon as she gets an answer from her. We join in giving our respects to her and family. Write to Granville Post Office.
To—Wm. Findley Stafford.
New Carlisle, Clark Co., Ohio."

The foregoing letter, from the hand of Mr. Stafford, reveals the hardships and struggles he and his wife were passing through in their early settlement in the State of Indiana.

Eve Stafford, by her former husband, Rowland Black, had two children, Charlotte, who married Morgan Wilson, and Amanda who married John Nathan Wingate. Charlotte then married John N. Wingate, the former husband of Amanda.

Joseph and Eve Stafford had the following children, viz: George Findley Stafford, who died at the age of two and one-half years; James R. Stafford, and Catherine Elizabeth Stafford.

Eve Stafford died in the year 1851. After her death, on the 2nd day of July, 1855, Joseph married Amarilla Dinsmore, of Albany, Indiana. Joseph and Amarilla Stafford had born to them Eve Stafford, who married Mannean Vincent, of Albany, Indiana, on November 28th, 1868; Bertha, who died at the age of 14 years; Martha who died at the age of eight years and Riley Stafford who married Nancy Boyd.

James Rowland Stafford was born January 20th, 1846, on the home farm in Niles Township, where he attended the country school until he arrived at about the age of 20 years, when he attended school in the town of Muncie. He was a school teacher by profession, for the period of twelve years, devoting his time during the summer season to farming. At the death of his father in 1877, he purchased a portion of the homestead farm to which he added other lands and became the owner of one of the best and well improved farms of the county.

On the 10th of October, 1867, Mr. Stafford married Nancy E. Sharon, a resident of Niles County, a daughter of Henry Sharon. From this union two children were born, Minnie O. Stafford, who married James Syphers; and Joseph H. Stafford. Mr. and Mrs. Syphers had born to them five children, viz: Russel, Rowland, Pauline, Josephine and James Ralph Syphers.

James Rowland and Nancy Stafford's second child was Joseph H. Stafford, who died in infancy. James Rowland Stafford on the decease of his wife, Nancy E. married Elizabeth McDaniels, on May 28th, 1876. She lived but a few months, dying August 16th, of the same year. After the death of his second wife, James Rowland married Sarah C. Anderson of Green County, Ohio, which occurred December 15th, 1881. Her ancestors were of the early settlers of South Carolina and Virginia and her immediate ancestry were among the prominent residents of Xenia, Ohio. Mrs. Stafford is extremely active in Church work in the town of her residence.

James Rowland and Sarah C. Stafford are the parents of the following children: Edna May, who married Mr. John Grice and now

reside in the town of Albany, Indiana; Ruth Jane, who married James G. McDonald, and Roxie E. who is unmarried at this date.

James Rowland and Sarah C. Stafford can well boast of their splendid family and their estimable sons-in-law. The daughter, Edna is a well educated woman, and was a teacher for many years prior to her marriage. Her husband is one of the sociable and much respected relatives of the Staffords, being an energetic and active business man. He is also a self made man.

The daughter, Ruth, is a graduate of De Pauw University, and was a teacher for a number of years prior to her marriage. Her husband, James G. McDonald, is a finely educated gentleman, and is connected with the Foreign Policy Association, located in the City of New York. He is a graduate of the High School of Albany, also holding the degrees of B. A. and M. A., of Indiana University, and the degree of Ph. D. of Harvard. I do not recall the fact, yet I am informed that while my Uncle Irvin Stafford and myself, in the year 1898, were stopping at the Hotel in Albany, he assisted on that occasion in waiting on us at the table. He had the distinction, while a teacher in the City of Boston of having as one of his students, the late Kermit Roosevelt.

The daughter, Roxie, is indeed one of the accomplished business women of the town of Albany and is a splendid musician. She too is a graduate of De Pauw University.

James Rowland Stafford has always been one of the active business men of his locality and has been frequently honored by official position: Trustee of his township, member of school board, cashier and director of Albany State Bank, and other positions of merit which he filled with entire satisfaction to his constituents. He is active in lodge affairs, having been a member of the I. O. O. F. lodge for fifty five years.

During the "War of the Rebellion," he enlisted in Company G. of the 134th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. He was a splendid soldier. During his service in the war, by reason of illness, he was confined for some time in the hospital at Louisville, Kentucky, and also at Nashville, Tennessee. He was mustered out of service and honorably discharged from further service in September 1864. He and his family are held in high esteem by all of the friends and relatives of the connection.

Catherine E. Stafford, daughter of Joseph and Eve Stafford, married Francis Hobbs, of Indiana. They had born to them Joseph William, who married Ella Coalston, and Rowland P. They are residents of the State of Iowa. Joseph William and Ella Hobbs have one daughter, Faye. I have no personal knowledge of them, but recall that I met them on one occasion only

Eve Stafford Vincent, daughter of Joseph and Amarilla Stafford married Mannean Vincent, November 28th, 1868. After her marriage to Mr. Vincent they resided on the farm until 1908 when they removed to Albany, Indiana. The education she received in the country schools was quite meager owing to the fact that her duties on the farm necessitated her constant attention.

Mr. Vincent has followed no occupation except that of farming and it can truly be said of him that in this enterprise he has been a success, having acquired considerable real estate, including a commodious residence in Albany. He was a volunteer in the War of the Rebellion, Company G. 134th Infantry, Indiana, and faithfully served his country. He was honorably discharged in September, 1864.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent have lived a commendable life and are noted for the sociability and interest they manifest in their relatives. My acquaintance with them has been rather limited as I never visited them but once as I now recall, but on the occasion referred to I was impressed with their hospitality and good will towards their relatives. As I sat and talked with Mrs. Vincent I was reminded of Maggie Pence Stafford, a cousin of hers, due largely to her kindly expressions and inquiries of her relatives in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent are earnest, Christian, People, being members of Bethel Methodist Church. They are the parents of the following children: Joseph William Benson Vincent; Francis Marlon Vincent; Bertha Vincent Frank; Pearl Vincent Bales; Harry Vincent; James Vincent; Ethel Vincent Davis; David Riley Vincent; and Findley Vincent. The daughter Pearl is deceased.

This large family of children have never brought sorrow or reproach upon their parents, each having lived lives highly creditable to themselves and their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Vincent are living a retired life in the town of Albany where they are pleasantly situated, and spending their closing years in perfect harmony with their family.

John Riley Stafford, son of Joseph and Amarilla Stafford, was born March 17th, 1861. He married Nancy A. Boyd, daughter of Cornelius and and Martha Boyd. On his marriage he moved to the farm in Niles Township, which was his father's original purchase, and there resided until his death which occurred July 3rd, 1925. His occupation in life was that of a tiller of the soil and at the time of his death he was the owner of ninety-five acres of good land. He was an energetic, upright and honest man and was held in high esteem by his friends and relatives. His wife, Nancy, died in 1923.

Mr. and Mrs. Stafford had born to them the following children Bessie Stafford; William Stafford; Susan Stafford, who married Wil-

ber Smith; Nellie, who married Haskill Gontz, and Flaye Stafford who married Mr. Halbrook.

These children respected and honored their parents and no act of either ever brought sorrow or discomfort to their parents. They reside in the county of their birth and enjoy the universal respect of their relatives.

This closes a brief sketch of our relatives in Indiana. I apologize for my limited acquaintance with many of them, but it is due chiefly to the cares of life which have prevented my visiting them oftener than I have in years gone by. The few visits that I have made among them have convinced me that our relatives in the Hoosier State are an extremely sociable and friendly people, and in this respect have to some extent surpassed our relatives in Ohio. There is a true spirit of fraternalism among them that is seldom found in as large a connection as that of the Staffords and Blacks. This spirit of congeniality augers good for any community and is one of the most commendable traits found in the human family. In my few visits to my relatives in Indiana I have been received and entertained most royally and no effort was spared by any of them to serve me in any manner within their power to make my visits enjoyable.

FAMILY OF THOMAS STAFFORD AND CATHERINE WILLIAMS STAFFORD

Thomas Stafford, son of James and Nancy Eaton Stafford, married Catherine Williams of Virginia. He came to Ohio from Virginia with his brother, George Stafford, Sr. He was one of the first to visit this state, having made a trip from Virginia with his brother, George Stafford, Sr., a couple years prior to his settlement in this state. He was the first owner of the quarter-section of land in Pike Township, which afterwards became the property of James C. Stafford. He never resided on this farm but took up his residence in the northwest quarter of section 26 in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio.

They had born to them fourteen children, and in that respect he was the first premium man of the Stafford families. He evidently read, with strict adherence, the Chapter of Genesis where the divine injunction is "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

Their children were Nancy, who married Samuel Sprinkle; Margaret, who died in infancy; Elizabeth, who married Cyrus Pence; James, who married Lucinda Pence; Matilda, who married Samuel Mitchell; Susan, who married Michael Pence; Thomas, Jr., who married Jane Black; John P., who married Catherine Stafford; Henry W., who married Mary Allen; Joseph, who married Mary J. Pence; Catherine, who married William Breckbill; George W., who married Nancy Eaton Stafford; Lucinda, who married Michael Snyder, and William, whose wife's name is not known to me.

Nancy and Samuel Sprinkle had three children: Susan C., Catherine Jeanette and George Sprinkle.

Susan C., first married Obediah Priest. Their children were Mary C., who married Myron D. Kester. Their children are Almont E. Kester, Ella Kissinger and Anna Bucher.

One daughter of Susan C. Priest, Alma Priest, is deceased. The other daughter, Ida C., married Frank Moorhead. He is now deceased. On the death of Obediah Priest, Susan C., married Arnold Kester. By this marriage no children were born.

Catherine Jeanette married John S. Priest. Their children are Clinton H. Priest, and Minnie M. Bell. Mr. and Mrs. Bell have one child, Walter Bell.

George Sprinkle married Sarah Moore. Their children are Nellie Kester, Mary Clingan, Samuel Sprinkle, Carrie Brooks, and George Sprinkle.

I know nothing of the families of Elizabeth Pence, James Stafford, Matilda Mitchell, or Susan Pence, although I have used dil-

igient effort to obtain the names of their children but have failed in that respect, therefore, I cannot make any mention of them.

Thomas, Jr., who married Jane Black, a sister of Rev. John G. Black, heretofore mentioned, had the following children: Samuel, Ellen, Sylvester and Joseph.

John P. and Catherine Stafford's children have heretofore been given in connection with Catherine Stafford.

Henry W. Stafford and Mary Ellen Stafford had the following children: John, who married Ida Peters; Etna, who married Archie Potter; Samuel, who married Emma Powell; and Grant, who married Maggie Grice.

Joseph and Mary Stafford had the following children: Willis, who married Sarah Shaneberger; George who married Mattie McCoy; Joseph E. Pence, who married Nellie Petty, and Edith, (if married) the name of her husband is unknown to me.

Catherine Breckbill and William, her husband, had the following children: Ida and Amanda.

George W. Stafford had the following children: Louisa Jane who died in infancy; Ellen who married Rev. William J. Baker, had no children and is now deceased; and Cyrus P. Stafford, who married Martha Fortney.

George W. Stafford and wife were among the most respected people of Pike Township. If either ever had an enemy in the community it was unknown to their relatives and friends. They lived an honest and simple life and were regular attendants of the McKendree Association. They were friends of my family and often visited my father and mother in the old homestead, therefore in my early years I had the opportunity of knowing something of their lives and characters, and truly can I say they were most exemplary in every respect. A detailed biography of them seems to be unnecessary in view of the fact that in 1919 at one of the meetings of the Stafford and Black Families, my aunt, Martha J. McNeal, read a paper on the life of George W. and Nancy Stafford, which by her permission I include herein.

“A FEW LINES ON THE LIFE AND CHARAC-
TER OF GEORGE W., AND NANCY STAF-
FORD, AND THEIR FAMILY,” BY
MARTHA J. McNEAL, OF
TROY, OHIO.

George W. Stafford is a son of Thomas and Catherine Williams Stafford.

Thomas Stafford was born October 18, 1780, in Ireland and emigrated to America in the year 1790, being then ten years of age, and settled in Giles County, Virginia. His wife, Catherine (nee Williams) was born November 14th, 1878. She too was a native of Ireland. They were married March 21st, 1805, in the County of Giles, State of Virginia.

Thomas Stafford made several trips to Ohio before he finally located. The exact date is not definitely known, but it was sometime during the year 1811 when he and his wife located on a farm just west of Silver Lake, Miami County, Ohio, where they lived for some years. In 1811 Thomas Stafford received a patent from the government for the northwest quarter of Section 31 Town 3, Range 9, of lands located in Champaign County, now Clark County. So far as is known he and his wife never resided on this farm.

Later he purchased a tract of land consisting of 161 ½ acres located in the northwest quarter of Section 26, Town 3, Range 9, in Clark County—in later years known as the “Samuel Sprinkle Farm” where he and his wife lived until the date of their death.

On this farm, Thomas and his wife, Catherine, erected a log house on a small hill a few rods North of the location of the present house, which was 24 feet by 30 feet, being a two-story building with two rooms only. To this main structure, on the south end, they later added a kitchen. It had a stone chimney and fireplace. All the material from which this house was constructed were hewed logs and joists, the same having four windows only, two on the east and two on the west. The timber used to construct this house, as well as the floors, was practically all poplar.

When Thomas came to America with his father and mother, one sister died on the ocean and was buried at sea.

Thomas Stafford was a man of more than ordinary intelligence. An old picture of him discloses that he was of more than average height, square face, heavy head of hair and fine shaped forehead. He possessed considerable property; was a dignified man and one of the leading citizens in the early history of Pike Township.

Thomas Stafford and Catherine Williams Stafford had four-

teen children, viz: Nancy, who married Samuel Sprinkle; Margaret who died in infancy; Elizabeth, who married Cyrus Pence, and later moved to Clinton County, Indiana; James who married Susan Pence; Matilda who married Samuel Mitchell; Susan, who married Michael Pence. She also moved to Indiana; Thomas, who married Jane Black; John P. who married Kate Stafford; Henry W. who married Jane Allen; Joseph, who married a Miss Pence; Catherine J. who married William Breckbill; Lucinda, William and George W. Stafford—the chief subject of this paper—who married Nancy Eaton Stafford in Giles County, Virginia, September 22nd, 1836.

George W. was born February 19, 1810, and died November 3rd, 1894, on his farm in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. His wife, Nancy E. Stafford, was born June 14th, 1816, and died April 25th, 1894 in the old homestead, preceding her husband only a few months in death.

They were married in 1836 by Rev. Samuel Mitchell at the home of George Mitchell, in Miami County. They took their wedding trip to Giles County, Virginia, among their friends and relatives, making the trip on horseback in thirteen days. They returned by the same mode of conveyance bringing with them a feather bed and a number of quilts, wedding presents of their friends. In 1844 they made a second visit to Virginia, this time going in a carriage and accompanied by his father.

At the time of their marriage, Thomas Stafford conveyed to George W. Stafford, 80 acres of land located in Section 22, Town 3, Range 10, Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, and in later years George W., purchased 80 acres adjoining the lands conveyed to him by his father, from his brother, James, for the sum of \$400.00. He was then the owner of 160 acres which he retained during the remainder of his life.

The purchase from his brother James was on installments, and solely an agreement of honor as no note or mortgage was given to secure the purchase price of said land.

It is said that Thomas Stafford gave to each of his sons when they were married, either \$400.00 in money or 80 acres of land, and by a mutual understanding between him and his daughters, they each were to receive the sum of \$1,000.00 at the date of his death. This mutual agreement was carried out to the letter and from information received from his grandson, Cyrus P. Stafford, each of the daughters received the money, viz: \$1,000.00, after the death of their father, by contribution from other members of the family.

George and Nancy Stafford, immediately after their marriage, located on the 80 acre tract above referred to and there built a log house in which to reside. This structure was in line with the

usual log house of the day, consisting of one room downstairs and one upstairs, made chiefly out of hewed timber, mostly poplar. It was located at or near the house now standing on said tract, which was later erected in 1845.

The barn, erected in 1853 by George W. Stafford, is still standing and is one of the substantial structures of that character in Pike Township.

When George W., and Nancy Stafford located in their new home they had two horses, a few farming implements, a meager amount of household furniture and kitchen utensils.

Only ten acres of land were cleared at that time, the rest being primitive forest, for which Pike Township, in early days, was noted.

At this time the forests abounded in game of all kinds. Wild turkeys were plentiful and it is said of George W. Stafford that he was one of the best rifle shots in the country and that he killed many wild turkeys as well as other game.

They wove the blankets necessary for their use out of wool which was picked and carded and then spun into yarn by Mrs. Stafford; she used to color it with walnut bark and hulls and other barks producing the various colors she desired. The old mill where she took her wool for carding was located on Honey Creek in the north-east quarter of section 30, of Pike Township, being about 2 ½ miles south of their residence. She operated a loom on which she wove blankets. She spun the flax, making table cloths, towels and other household articles and also jeans clothing for her husband.

They traded principally at Christiansburg, Champaign County, where they generally went on horseback. At the time of their marriage there was not a cleared farm between their home and said village.

She sold her butter for seven cents per pound and her eggs at five cents per dozen, which in those days was considered a good price.

It is said that George W. Stafford was never called as a witness in the trial of any case and never sat on a jury but once, that being the Hurtzler murder case.

They had born to them the following children: Louisa Jane Stafford, born October 4, 1838 and died in infancy; Cyrus Pence Stafford, born December 9, 1839, who is still living; Sarah Ellen Stafford, born September 27, 1846, died April 11th, 1878 at Camp Dennison, Hamilton County, Ohio. She married William Joseph Baker, a Methodist minister. They had no children. She was a modest, unpretentious woman, highly respected and a prominent member of the Methodist church. She is buried at McKendree.

Cyrus P. Stafford married Martha Fortney, October 19th, 1865. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Eli Kirk, a Methodist minister. His wife, Martha, died November 16th, 1914. She is buried at Casstown, Miami County, Ohio. Their wedding trip was a visit to Columbus, Ohio.

George and Nancy Stafford were among the most prominent, upright and religious citizens of Pike Township and few if any had a wider circle of friends during the long years they lived together. They were noted for their uprightness, industry, hospitality and religious lives. Their home was the chief one among the early settlers of that township as a welcome place to the itinerant ministers of the Methodist Church.

They lived in a day and age of hardships endured only by the early settlers, when industry and economy were the necessary elements of success. Good morals, honesty, and the Bible were their religious and civil guides.

They felled the forests and cleared the ground to make room for a home for themselves and posterity, and they have left to their son Cyrus a well improved farm, splendidly located, as evidence of their industry.

The trails, the heavy forests and the mud roads have long since disappeared and now we find the farm on which they once resided, well improved with substantial houses and barns on a good pike, all of which is evidence of frugality and the fruits of their labors.

We can now scarcely imagine the cares and toils of the early settlers of Pike Township, who labored as did these people, to the end that their children and grandchildren might enjoy the fruits of their labors.

They were members of McKendree Church and among the leaders of that organization which was one of the most prosperous churches of early days.

I wish to quote from the address of Rev. John G. Black, once a prominent Methodist minister, at the Home-coming of said church, held in 1908. In speaking of George W. Stafford and Nancy Stafford, he said:

“George and Nancy Stafford were among those who gave their names to the McKendree Society and their lives to the duties of a cheerful and Christian work. Their home was one of open and unfeigned hospitality. If it was ever excelled, it was not my privilege to enjoy a better one. They were without guile or deceit. They sleep near us as we meet to speak and revere the memory of the past.”

No finer tribute could be paid them than the one on that occa-

sion and I wish to add my approval of said tribute for I have known them all my life time and know them only to have been upright, honest and religious and among the best citizens of our community.

In 1836 they celebrated their Golden Wedding and I recall no other members of the Stafford families, except one, who lived to celebrate such an occasion.

They lie sleeping in the cemetery at McKendree Chapel where they will rest until the dawning of the Great Day when they will reap their final reward in the world beyond for the good deeds done while on earth.

Their son, Cyrus P. Stafford, in the year 1865, erected the house where he now resides, located on the farm which came to him from his father, together with other buildings, which are of a most substantial character. This has been his residence since his marriage. They have one son, Harley Stafford, the pride of his father's life, who on the 24th day of October, 1909, married Miss Edna M. Boyden, a most estimable woman, a resident of Christiansburg, Champaign County, Ohio.

It can be said to the credit of Cyrus P. Stafford that no man has lived in his community who has surpassed him in maintaining the respect and confidence of his friends and neighbors. For many years he has been one of the active members of McKendree Church and, although but few of the older members of this church are now living, is still a diligent attendant.

I know of no fault in him except one, and that is the use of tobacco which habit he contracted when about the age of thirteen, when he secreted enough eggs which he sold to purchase his first plug of tobacco. He still indulges in the use of "Lady Nicotine."

He is now in his eightieth year, living and residing with his son and daughter-in-law above named to whom he is greatly devoted, they rendering him every service in their power to make his last days as happy and pleasant as possible.

This home is one of the best in Pike Township, with all modern conveniences, and here on the farm of his birthplace where he spent many happy years with his father and mother and beloved wife, he is enjoying comforts and conveniences not surpassed by anyone of the Stafford families.

He has lived to observe the disappearance of the last forest surrounding the homestead of his father; the passing of the ox team, stage coach, mud roads, cradle and sickle; the displacement of the rough log cabin by a splendid residence; the marked progress of civilization and material changes in the country life of Pike Township and in contrast with those existing in the early days of his father and mother. But few of his early associates are now living. Most all

have passed to their reward, but notwithstanding that fact, he enjoys in the highest degree, the closing years of his life—which he attributes to the care and companionship of his beloved son and wife—on the farm where his father and mother first located.

This family have merited the highest commendation of their relatives and friends for their long and honorable lives; and while few of the older members of the Stafford families remain, I hope the long period of unbroken friendship may continue until we meet beyond the grave where we shall reunite with our relatives and loved ones, never again to be separated.

Troy, Ohio.

August 14th, 1919.”

The son, Cyrus P. Stafford, married Martha Fortney; he died November 6th, 1921. Like his father and mother, he was active in church affairs. At the death of his father and mother he became the owner of the farm theretofore owned by his father, to which he and his wife added more acreage and, on their death, it descended to their son, Harley Stafford.

Harley Stafford is one of the substantial business men of the community. He married Miss Edna H. Boyden, a woman of fine qualities and quite active in religious work. They enjoy a beautiful home where they extend the welcome hand to relatives and acquaintances.

Lucinda and Michael Snyder had the following children: Thomas Snyder and Laura who are twins; Elizabeth and William Peter; Michael E. who married Anna Knäffenberger; Rebecca who married William Franklin, and Henry who died in infancy.

William Stafford had one son, James Stafford, who married Mary Waitt. I am informed they had two children, Frank Stafford and Anna. I know nothing regarding the history of Lucinda Stafford, and do not recall that I ever met either of their descendants.



MARTHA JANE McNEAL

FAMILY OF FINDLEY AND CATHERINE STAFFORD

Findley married Catherine Mitchell May 7th, 1846. He was a son of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford. He was born November 12th, 1818 and died March 13th, 1894, in New Carlisle, the place of his residence. On his marriage he and Catherine took up their residence where his father, George, had located in 1811. They had the following children born to them: Lauretta, Clara and Edwin, each dying in infancy; Joseph H; Albert Eaton; Laura C. and Charles Pence Stafford.

Catherine lived to the age of 86 years, and died March 22nd, 1913. Findley and Catherine are both buried in New Carlisle cemetery. They cared for his aged mother and contributed to her comfort for many years and until she departed this life. Also the maiden sister, commonly known as "Aunt Betsey", who was blind for many years, was tenderly cared for by Findley and his wife Catherine.

He never engaged in any business except farming. On the death of his father, George Stafford, Sr., he came into possession of the farm where the Staffords first located in 1811 save and except five acres which were devised to my grandfather, James C. Stafford.

Catherine, his wife, was a daughter of Howard Mitchell, a resident of Miami County, Ohio. No woman in the connection was more industrious. She was greatly devoted to her family, and, especially, to her daughter, Laura C. Scarff, and son Albert Eaton Stafford. They were both members of McKendree Society and regular attendants at all services. The last 30 years of her life time were spent at the home of her daughter, Laura C. Scarff and Albert Eaton Stafford.

Joseph H. Stafford, son of Findley and Catherine Stafford, married Laura Black, a daughter of Robert Black of Pike Township. She has been a faithful helpmate and companion. At the date of the death of his father he became the owner of sixty acres of the farm originally settled by his grandfather. Notwithstanding, he was the owner of this land after his father and mother had taken up their residence in New Carlisle, he moved into the former residence of his father and mother and has since resided therein, which is the property of his brother, Albert Eaton Stafford. They have the following children: Ross, Walter, Florence Kniesly, Caroline Wilson and Grace Peoples.

Albert Eaton Stafford, son of Findley and Catherine Stafford never married. At the death of his father, he became the owner of ninety-eight acres of land originally settled by his grandfather, on which the old family residence is located.

He has been a favorite throughout his entire life, of the Staffords and Blacks, both in Ohio and Indiana. For many years he was leader of the McKendree Choir; a fine musician and possessed of a fine tenor voice which made him exceedingly popular in religious and social circles. He has maintained a reputation for honesty, uprightness and sobriety throughout his years. His education was obtained in Pike School. He was one of the leading members of the orchestra in that district. If he ever had any enemies I never heard of them. His course in life has been good will to everyone. His attention and kindness to his mother in the latter years of her life was assiduous in the highest degree, and no one mourned the loss of a parent more than Albert Eaton Stafford.

Laura C. Stafford married Tully J. Scarff, a son of John J. Scarff, who was one of the prominent men of Clark County, and a noted breeder of fine stock. Laura Scarff's early years were spent on the farm where the Staffords first located in Pike Township. She was a member of the McKendree Society joining that organization when a young girl and was a teacher in the Sabbath school at the age of sixteen. She has the record of being the first Sabbath School teacher of the most prominent Methodist minister in the State, Rev. Marcellus B. Fuller, and who, at this writing, is pastor of the largest Methodist Congregation in Ohio. In the summer of 1926 while visiting friends in the City of Cleveland, Ohio, on Sabbath she attended religious services at Rev. Fuller's church; and during his sermon he paid her a fine compliment by asking her to arise and, introducing her to his congregation of three thousand people, stating to them that she was his first Sabbath School teacher at McKendree Church.

Laura C. Scarff, a few years after her marriage, moved to New Carlisle where she has continued to reside. On taking up her residence in New Carlisle she became a member of the Methodist Church of that Village and has since been one of the foremost women of that association. In her younger days she attended Pike School, taking an active part in the exhibitions and spelling matches, and later was a pupil at Linden Hill Academy under the tutorage of Dr. Catlin who was a leading educator of his day. As heretofore stated, she is eligible to admission in the organization of the "Daughters of the American Revolution."

She is active in civic, political and social affairs of the county and village of her residence; much interested in the reunions of the Staffords and Blacks, and recognized as a good public speaker. At the Home-coming of the McKendree Association, held on September 19th, 1926, at the request of members of that Association, she read a paper entitled, "The Mitchell Family in Connection with McKendree

Association," which, by her permission, I have placed in this volume. It is evidence of her knowledge of the history of Methodism and ability as a public speaker.

Mrs. Scarff, like her brother, Albert Eaton Stafford, omitted no act of kindness or attention to make the closing years of her mother's life happy and comfortable.

In our childhood days we lived but a short distance apart and seldom would a day pass that we were not in the company of each other. She, being a few years older than myself, was the torment of my life and I might refer to many instances of her conduct towards me if I thought the same would be interesting to my readers, but as they refer to our own acquaintance and association only, I refrain from detailing them, however, they were a portion of the pranks we played on each other in our childhood days. Our unbroken friendship has continued these many years.

On September 16th, 1925, she celebrated her golden wedding at her home in New Carlisle, where gathered many of her relatives to join with her in celebrating the occasion.

Charles Pence Stafford, the youngest child of Findley and Catharine Stafford, married Margaret Shook. He was a pupil of Pike School. Later he was a student at the Ohio Wesleyan University.

After arriving at the years of manhood, he moved to New Carlisle and later to Lamoille, Illinois, where at this writing he is a resident. He is an active business man and from his childhood days has been a great fancier of fine poultry. He has the record of being one of the best breeders of Plymouth Rocks in the country and is a prominent exhibitor at the leading poultry shows.

FAMILY OF JAMES C. STAFFORD AND MARGARET R. STAFFORD

James C. Stafford, son of George Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Fair Stafford, was born October 16th, 1801, in Giles County, Virginia. He married Margaret R. Black, November 6th, 1828. They were my grandparents.

James C. Stafford came to Ohio in 1811, with his father and mother and others, locating on the tract of land entered by his father. The date of their arrival in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, was October 16th, 1811, being his tenth birthday.

They pitched their tent on the site near the present house on the land now owned by Albert Eaton Stafford and immediately began a search for a spring of water, which was found at the foot of a hill a short distance from the location of their tent. The tract of land on which this spring was found afterwards became the residence farm of James C. Stafford and family.

In early days and before he attained the age of twenty-one years, he became an apprentice of a man in Dayton, Ohio, by the name of Dodson with whom he learned the carpenter trade where he worked for a period of three years for his board and clothes.

He became the owner of the northwest quarter of Section 31, township 3, Range 10 of lands in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, for which Thomas Stafford had obtained a patent in 1818; also five acres of land devised to him by his father.

Immediately after his marriage to Margaret R. Black, they at once moved into a log house which he built a short time prior to his marriage. It was located only a few rods from the spring referred to and where the present house on the farm is now located.

At the time James C. Stafford came to Ohio there was growing within a few feet of the spring referred to, a small burr oak tree which was about ten feet in height. This tree is still standing, being four feet and eleven inches in diameter, and is now more than one hundred and fifteen years old.

The log house contained one room and a loft. At that date there was only one other building on the farm, being a loom-house, where Margaret in after years wove linens, blankets and carpets. The dimensions of this cabin are not definitely known but it was considerably larger and more substantial than most of the log houses of that day, due probably to the fact that he was a carpenter and constructed it with but little outlay of money.

He was a fine carpenter and built nearly all the houses and barns of the early settlers of that community. Today there are buildings still standing in the neighborhood which he constructed. He had

the finest and most expensive set of carpenter tools for making doors, windows, mantles, tables, moldings and everything necessary to finely finish a well-built, and then, modern house.

When a boy he was healthy, industrious and studious, subject to one ailment only which was the phthisic. On one occasion a "Quack" came through the neighborhood and convinced his parents that he could cure James of that ailment by putting a lock of his hair in a hole bored in a tree; so they consented, and James stood up by a hickory tree, (which tree is still standing) and a half inch auger hole was bored in the tree, a lock of his hair poked therein and plugged up, and James was to have the Phthisic no more.

His wife, Margaret, was of a prominent family and a daughter of the earliest settler of Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio. They lived in the first log house until the year 1840, when it was abandoned and they moved into a modern frame house which they erected within a few rods of the log cabin. About three years after that date James also built a substantial barn and spring-house from the best timber on the farm; the frame part being all hewed timber, which barn and spring-house are still standing.

At the date of their marriage only a small field on each side of the road that ran north and south through the farm was cleared. Practically the entire farm was heavily timbered. Deer frequently came to the spring branch for water; wild turkeys, grouse, squirrels and partridges were plentiful.

Two roads passed through the farm; one to New Carlisle and the other, the "Old Boston Road;" these roads being little more than mere trails cut through the timber, with corduroy bridges across the spring branches and runs. There are still traces of the Boston road through the farm.

In the log house there were born to them, Samuel B., who died in infancy; James Rowland, April 7th, 1831; Joseph Irvin, March 11th, 1834, and Martha Jane, who was born in the new house, on October 31st, 1846.

In the early days, the inhabitants of that vicinity were nearly all Staffords, Blacks and Mitchells, and few lived in the neighborhood who were not related to some branch of their families. They were a rugged and sturdy class of people engaged in clearing the ground and building houses for themselves and their families. The ax, maul and wedge were necessary tools and they well knew how to wield them with skill and to an advantage. With these tools, a few saws and hatchets, they could build the ordinary log cabin, barn or stable.

The tallow candle and lard-oil lamp furnished the illumination during the long winter evenings and many were the stockings,

mitten and other woolen garments knitted by these unsatisfactory lights, by the settlers of that community in the early history of Clark County.

James C. Stafford was a Whig. He took an active interest in the Harrison campaign of 1840 when William Henry Harrison was a candidate for President. The older settlers frequently referred to the stories of that campaign, the hard cider they drank, also the campaign songs. The early settlers had long before that date caught the spirit of Johnny Appleseed and orchards were numerous, with plenty of hard cider stored in the cellars of everyone of the neighborhood; whiskey was plentiful and few log rollings were had, or harvests cut, without the whiskey jug in evidence. Drunkenness among them seldom occurred and was never approved yet liquor was used by most all of the early settlers of the community. The early history of the western portion of Clark County contains a record of a teacher in one of the public schools being partially compensated for his services by a gallon of whiskey.

James C. Stafford lived his entire lifetime after he came to Ohio, in Pike Township, which was Democratic by a large majority, but notwithstanding that fact, although originally a Whig, but later a Republican, he was elected to the office of Township Trustee, due largely to his business ability and genial disposition.

Instances are in proof of land transactions he had with his relatives, hereto referred to, when a book account only was kept as evidence of the transaction and payments made by the purchaser. They regarded honesty in business transactions as essential as virtue and as proof of good citizenship; and it was not an uncommon thing in those days to make loans to each other without any note being given; a mere verbal agreement was made as to when the debt would be paid, which promise was always kept.

In the years that I have been engaged in the practice of my profession my attention has frequently been called to the fact that he was one of the leading business men of the community, engaging to some extent in real estate transactions as well as following his chief occupation. He was counselor for the neighborhood and assisted in the settlement of estates, notwithstanding his meager education which, like most of the early settlers, was limited.

He assisted in the building of the first frame church of McKendree and had the contract for the present brick structure which was completed in 1853.

No photographs of either James C. Stafford or his wife were ever made, but in 1840 a traveling photographer, James Maguire, made a tin-type picture of them, which in later years was enlarged and is in the possession of their descendants.

He and his wife, Margaret, were both members of the McKendree Association. Margaret died October 1st, 1855, and James C. died March 1st, 1864. They are both buried in Black's cemetery in Pike township.

In the family are many articles of furniture which he made and also articles which are the product of the labors of his wife, Margaret, all of which are highly prized.

I remember my grandfather, yet I was only a small boy of little more than three and one half years of age when he died. I recall the place I sat with Laura C. Stafford, now Mrs. T. J. Scarff, during the funeral. I do not mention this fact for the uprpose of indicating that I have a retentive memory, but the impression made on my mind on that occasion has vividly remained with me throughout these many years.

Margaret R. Stafford was a daughter of Captain Samuel Black and Agnes Rowland Black. Captain Samuel Black was born in Montgomery County, Virginia, on the 7th day of October, 1778. He was the son of John and Jane Alexander Black, residents of Montgomery County, Virginia. It is said that John died in 1844, in his 94th year. His grandfather's name was also Samuel, he being only ten years of age when he landed in America. They were of Scotch-Irish parents and known as Scotch Presbyterians.

Samuel visited Champaign County, now Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, in company with his brother, Andrew Black, in 1805, coming by way of the then Village of Cincinnati. After making a selection of land, being Section 25, township 3, range 10 of said township, he and his brother returned to Montgomery County, Virginia, the place of their residence. In the year 1806 Andrew returned to Clark County and built a log house on the south half of said section which, by agreement between him and his brother, he took the title thereto, and Samuel took the title to the north half of said Section 25, above referred to.

At this date, Samuel was unmarried, but as shown by the following letter, he was then, and had been for sometime, enamoured of Miss Agnes Rowland, also a native and resident of Montgomery County, Virginia. This letter discloses that prior to the date of same he had offered her his hand in marriage, which she had evidently declined for the reason that he contemplated making Ohio his future place of residence, however, he seemed persistant in his attentions to Miss Rowland, and on November 10th, 1805, he again proposed marriage to her by the letter referred to, which the writer has in his possession, which is as follows:

“Virginia, Montgomery Co.,
November 10, 1805.

My Dear Agnes:

But Oh! why should I be guilty of such a digression as the above in calling you mine. When I have no right. I introduce this mode of communication not from any design or expectation that our intimacy should become public to the world. I hope to be able to convey the same through a channel that will be safe, and if you are pleased to accept of it, and make it welcome, I shall esteem it a particular favor, but if not, I hope you will do me the honor to commit it to the flames, which is a receptacle and secretor of all things coming within the limits of its conflagration. And more minutely to the purpose, I hope you will excuse my long absence when I tell you that I cannot by any means feel a freedom in making my visits more frequent while you appear to be disposed to give so little satisfaction on the subject I have been so solicitous about.

You are not, Dear Madam, to understand by this that I have withdrawn my affection for, and proposals to you, by no means. I again offer you my hand which, with all the freedom and affection I am capable of being in possession of is at your service for life. I now, with sincerity, by that is sacred, once more put you in possession of receiving my hand, which is probably the last time you may have that opportunity, not that you should think I am short with you on this subject, but quite the reverse.

I am willing to wait your pleasure if you will, but give me a certainty of success. I cannot feel freedom in letting so interesting a subject (and one that my happiness so much depends on), die without a further knowledge of your mind, which I hope you will have candor enough to discover, but if not, you will not think hard of my suffering in silence the final result.

As to my intentions at present, respecting my future residence, (which probably may be a matter of moment to you), is somewhat uncertain, which cannot be calculated upon any degree of certainty by any of us. I do not feel bound to any part of the world, particularly the small moiety that providence has been pleased to put me in possession of, (with which I feel contented). I feel an inclination and consider it my duty to occupy to the best advantage, for the sake of which I have for some time past had in contemplation to be an inhabitant of the State of Ohio, which I conceive to be an advantageous part of the world to be in.

Not that I am prejudiced so much in favor of the place as to sacrifice my interests for the sake of getting there, quite the reverse, if you are pleased to accept my proposal and our union should produce anything more advantageous to view why should not that be embraced.

The above I believe you are not a stranger to, for to my knowledge I never kept it a secret from any person, and as near as I can recollect, when we conversed together you made that an objection and if you do continue in that

same opinion and make that an objection in reality, I conceive I should be doing myself a wrong to engage with any person who could put so little confidence in me.

Through the same channel, as by the same means you may have an opportunity of communicating a little more fully your mind, if you think it worth your while, if not, I do not make these within lines binding upon myself. But most virtuous lady, my offer is at stake with you, and probably the same proposition may never be offered to any other person by me, if you are not disposed to give them a kind reception.

I do not expect to be a resident of Montgomery more than three or four months, but as the limits of a letter is not sufficient for an explanation of so interesting and weighty matter, I shall for the present conclude in hopes to be honored with some future opportunity of more fully and deliberately weighing the matter in hand, which for the present, most amiable witness of my affection, be pleased to accept, from,

Your ever sincere and very affectionate admirer,

Samuel Black."

That she accepted his offer of marriage, in response to his letter, or by personal interview, is undoubted, for on April 9th, 1807, he and Agnes Rowland were married in Montgomery County, Virginia. After their marriage, some time during the summer of the same year, the exact date I have been unable to ascertain, they emigrated to Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, and there settled on the north half of section 25, above referred to, then, as stated, a part of Champaign County where he constructed a log house consisting of two rooms, the same being what is commonly known as a story-and-a-half house.

The log house built by Samuel Black was located near the center of his farm, close to a splendid spring of water, and still stands practically as constructed by him, except an addition made to it in after years by my uncle, Joseph Irvin Stafford, who became the owner of the entire tract settled by Mr. Black.

His wife, Agnes Rowland, was born April 22nd, 1780, in Montgomery County, Virginia, and after her marriage lived in the log house above referred to, until the date of her death which occurred September 7th, 1838.

Quite an amusing incident is connected with the daughters, Jane and Margaret. The incident referred to was on the occasion of their visit to their mother, Agnes Rowland Black, who was then quite ill. They both arrived during the early hours of the evening and shortly before midnight of August 24th, 1829, the sister Jane gave birth to Agnes Stafford, in the old log house where she was born. On this occasion she had no raiment for the new born babe, so

a messenger was dispatched to the home of her sister Margaret R. Stafford, for clothing for the new babe, Agnes. On that day Jane rode on horseback from her home at Casstown to that of her mother a distance of ten miles. A short time before midnight of the same day, Margaret became convinced that it was advisable for her to return to her own home, about one mile distant, where soon after midnight, her first child, Samuel B. Stafford, was born.

The first school house in Pike Township was constructed on the hill in a southeasterly direction from the location of the old log house referred to, in Section 25. Here in this old school house all the children of Samuel Black and Agnes Rowland Black received their education.

It is said by one writer that James Black—not a relative of the families named—was the earliest teacher in Pike Township. In later years George J. Stafford, a brother of Eve Stafford heretofore referred to, taught in this school house.

In those days only the elementary branches were taught, which, coupled with discipline, were all classed in one course known as "Lickin' and Learnin'." The former part of this course was strictly adhered to, for in those days the necessary implements to perform the operation were always at hand as there was no shortage of well-shaped hickory sprouts, deliberately applied as the *Modus Operandi*, which always left with the pupil a lasting impression of the occasion.

In June 1812 the United States declared war against Great Britain, and Samuel Black very soon thereafter entered the service as a volunteer. The records of the War Department show that on August 24th, 1812, Samuel Black was appointed Captain of a company of Volunteers, 1st (Sutton's) Ohio Militia, War of 1812, and on that date he entered the service.

His record discloses many familiar names known in the early history of Clark County. Among them are the names of John Black, designated as First Sergeant, Henry Williams, First Corporal; Presley Forgy, Hugh M. Wallace, Robert Russell, and others. It contains a receipt from many members of his company of "two-point blankets", and other articles received by members of his company.

I have been unable to ascertain the significance of the words "two-point," although I have frequently, in years gone by, conversed with a number of old soldiers who were in the War of the Rebellion—among them General J. Warren Keifer—for the purpose of obtaining a description of them, yet none have been able to give me the information.

Following this entry in his book and diary I find a memorandum of muskets, cartridges, lead, flints, powder, pots, stew kettles,

spiders, barrels, axes, wooden dishes, paper, quills, ink powder, and other articles received by him for the use of his company and himself.

He also received of Major Galloway 1-7 point and 1-6 point blankets of the kind already mentioned.

On November 14th, 1812 he was located near Finley's Block House and on the following day at Ft. Necessity. On November 16th, he refers to an engagement with the enemy at the "Rapids." The Rapids referred to were known as the Maumee Rapids in Wood County.

On December 8th, Captain Black received an order to have full rations drawn for those on duty and half rations for the men of his battalion who were sick. This order was countermanded on the following day, as shown by his record which reads as follows:

"December 9th. General is pleased to moderate his order of yesterday about the provisions, and the men present only are to draw their full rations."

His diary makes reference to the Block House at Ft. McArthur, being then a fortification on the Scioto River in Hardin County and what was known as Hull's Road. This locality was greatly infested by Indians; was a low, flat place with few settlements. There were two block houses; one in the northwest and one in the southwest angle.

A number of amusing events are found in his diary; among them a reference to his visit with the Chaplain to a wounded man. While passing the General's tent he refers to one Major Nye's singing a patriotic song and says:

"In passing the General's Marquee in the evening, Major Nye brings forth a patriotic song, as he calls it, and sings it, which in substance is pretty windy."

His diary shows that on December 15th, 1812 he obtained permission to go to his home, and on December 20th, the following is the last entry in his note book, which is as follows:

"December 20th, 1812. Left camp at McArthur Block House for home, where I arrived on the night of the 21st of December, 1812. Found all my family well."

As evidence of his belief in a Supreme Being, his patriotism, his affection for, and confidence in his wife, I wish to quote a portion of a letter he wrote her while in camp near McArthur's Block House, on November 16th, 1812, in which he says:

"You, no doubt, my dear, think my time and mind is all occupied with the war, true, it is, but my mind is oft with you and our little babes and much would I have to say to you, were I at home, but, hark, the time I hope will soon step around and then I shall return, if God permits, I hope with pleasure, to you, my dear, and little ones.

"I could, ere this time, no doubt, my dear, have been released from this tour of duty, but why should I shrink back from my country's cause, if able to go on, and if doomed to fall therein, be reconciled to fate.

"If not permitted to return, I hope, my dear, your confidence will be placed in Him that is able to save, and if so, you will certainly find a way laid out for your passage through this troublesome world, with some degree of smoothness.

"My dear, I have burned a good piece of candle since I began to write, and may be you think me tedious, but I trust were I present with you, a whole candle would burn unnoticed. I shall give no direction concerning the management of my affairs at home, not knowing the situation, I leave it with your judgment, to direct, and for the present subscribe myself your most affectionate husband."

I have the sword Captain Samuel Black carried in the war referred to, which is in excellent condition and practically as nice as new; the sheath only, indicating its age. This sword passed to my father, and from him to me. In years to come, after I am through with it, together with the diary and record of Captain Samuel Black and his company they will be found in the Clark County Historical Society, properly labeled.

In the first statutes of Ohio, edited by Solomon P. Chase, probably the most authentic history of the State of Ohio that has been published—in his sketch, referring to the War of 1812 he says:

"Her sons volunteered with alacrity their services in the field; and no troops more patiently endured hardship or performed better services. Hardly a battle was fought in the Northwest in which some of these great citizen soldiers did not seal their devotion to their country with their blood."

At the time Captain Black returned to his home, he was suffering from tuberculosis contracted while in the service, from which he never recovered, dying on the 19th day of June 1814, in the old log house which he had a few years before constructed. He donated three-quarters of an acre on a beautiful knoll in the northeast portion of his farm, for a cemetery, thereafter to be known as Black's cemetery of Pike Township. He was the first one buried therein, but in later years his wife, Agnes, his son Rowland and daughter Margaret R. were also buried in this cemetery.

Captain Samuel Black and his wife, Agnes, were Presbyterians. The first organization and services of that denomination were held in a log house where he died. Later, services were held in a small church erected on the hill now a portion of the New Carlisle cemetery. The Association was afterwards incorporated by the act of the General Assembly, passed February 9th, 1829, under the name of "First Honey Creek Presbyterian Congregation," which is the present Presbyterian Congregation of New Carlisle.

James Rowland Stafford was born in the log house built by his father. He spent his entire life on the farm, it passing to him at the death of his father, James C. Stafford. He was a student of Pike School, and attended school one year in Springfield, Ohio.

He was a man of considerable pride in his younger days; in accord with the custom among many of the Staffords and Blacks, he wore a silk hat, Prince Albert coat and silk vest.

He married Mary Elizabeth Wilson on the 29th day of December, 1858. He followed the occupation of farming, together with being interested in various enterprises in the community. He and George J. Stafford were the contractors who built the turnpike from New Carlisle through the Stafford neighborhood and to the Miami County Line. Prior to the building of this turnpike the mud road was almost impassable for many months during the year and it was not an uncommon occurrence to see a vehicle mired in the mud hub-deep. I was about the age of ten years, as I recall, when this turnpike was built. Many men were employed as shovelers and graders in the construction of this road, most of whom were of Irish Nationality. New Carlisle at that time had three saloons which these employees frequented, and it was not unusual, when they had imbibed too freely, to engage in fights and quarrels which occurred almost weekly. This pike has always been recognized as one of the best roads of its kind in Clark County. Throughout the entire line of this road a fine quality of gravel was obtainable and was used in its construction.

When my father came into possession of the farm only about one-half of it had been cleared. The wooded lands were covered with fine trees of walnut, oak, hickory and ash. The present house and bank barn were built by my father. The frame timber and most of the finishing lumber was taken from the farm. Many white and black walnut trees were found on this farm, which were made into finishing lumber for the residence.

He, like his father, was a good mechanic, and always kept a fine set of tools. He was also a blacksmith and did his own smith-work and horse-shoeing. He was a Republican and took an active interest in all the political campaigns of the day. The interest manifested in elections in those days in that locality was intense. Torch-

light processions and six-horse wagon teams joining in the parade, with bands and glee clubs, were in vogue during the presidential and state campaigns.

He was popular with the people of his county and, owing to his sociable and friendly qualities, was frequently elected assessor of the township, notwithstanding it was largely Democratic. From his boyhood days he was a great lover of fine driving horses, and throughout his life he kept some of the finest blooded horses in the country. Matched teams were very popular and he took a delight in surpassing his neighbors and friends by having the 'best matched' horses in the county. His reputation as a horseman extended to the Eastern states where he furnished double teams to noted buyers.

He loved a race-horse and whenever he could secure one, either trotter or runner, he always did so. In the year 1863 there was what was known as Woodward Park near Tippecanoe City of Miami County, Ohio. Comprised in this park was a race-track where on holidays, and especially on the Fourth of July, running races were usually held. There was no restriction on the sale or use of intoxicating liquor at that date, and on these occasions much drinking and sports were engaged in, and as a part thereof, they usually had a number of running races. My father, at that time, was the owner of a running horse named "Calip". It was the fourth of July, 1863 when a great meeting was announced to be held at Woodward Park where a running race was to be had as a part of the festivities of the occasion. My father, being extremely friendly with the sporting fraternity of New Carlisle, permitted them to take this horse, Calip, and enter him for the race at that park. He was trained for several days on what is known as the "Lake Road" and, when the race came off at the park, Calip was the winner.

A few days after this horse race it became generally known throughout the vicinity of McKendree Chapel, that my father had given the sporting fraternity of New Carlisle this horse; that much drunkenness, together with betting on the various horses, was in evidence on the occasion. My father, being a member of McKendree Church, by reason of his conduct on this occasion had, in the opinion of the Sages of that church, violated the doctrines of the church, as well as the laws of the state, and by reason thereof, a church trial was essential to community welfare and to maintain the strict regulations of the church. The gray-haired and long-whiskered brethren of the church, with the minister in charge, believing that it was only fair to my father, decided to wait on him and ascertain the truth of the accusations against him; so they called at my father's house in the evening, and, after some pleasant conversational courtesies, informed him of their mission, stating that they were informed he had permitted this race horse to be entered in the race at

that park; that there had been much drinking and carousing on that day, also gambling and fighting, and that he had violated the rules of the church, as well as the laws of the state. They felt it their duty to require him to make a public confession of his sins in that respect, which, if he refused to do, would necessitate a church trial by the McKendree Association.

At this time my mother very plainly informed the leaders of that church and the minister that my father would make no confession or apology of any kind, which immediately ended the conference and the gray-haired apostles immediately made their exit and no more was heard of the horse race.

When the war broke out, he and John Miranda, a prominent Democrat of the township, were designated by the Official War Board to fill the quota of that township. A meeting was called in North Hampton at the Methodist Church where there was a large attendance, and Mr. Miranda, being a fine public speaker, addressed the large audience relative to their mission. His address frightened almost everyone present out of their boots, as he stood before them and told them that he and my father had the list of those who were drafted, and that the only way to be relieved from service was by pledging themselves for an amount sufficient to obtain a substitute. That meeting resulted in the raising of \$14,000.00 to be applied in securing substitutes in the war. This was considered a very large sum of money to raise among the people of that township.

He was quite active in politics and frequently was called to the county seat to consult with the leaders of his party as to the selection of candidates for the different county offices to be filled. In those days, and before the primary system, the leaders controlled the convention and usually succeeded in nominating the choice they had made prior to the assembling of the delegates. It can be truly said that the method pursued in his day resulted in the selection of the best men for the various offices and far surpassed the present method. He was often solicited to become a candidate for a county position and no doubt would have been a candidate for a county office had it not been for the good judgment of my mother who invariably opposed his becoming an office holder.

My father, with his fine driving horses, considered it a great pleasure to make frequent visits, with horse and buggy, to his relatives in Indiana where he was always welcomed by the large relationship. He was extremely friendly to his acquaintances and never hesitate to bestow some compliment upon them. He, likewise, was friendly with his neighbors and often made them small loans of money without note or surety, which was always repaid by the one to whom he had made the loan.

At the age of 18 years he became a member of McKendree Church and continued such membership until his death. He and William Mitchell, for many years, lead the congregational singing of that church. He lived but a few years after the erection of the present buildings on the farm of his birthplace and that of his parents and, although he frequently referred to those buildings with pride, he enjoyed them only a few years. Ill health seized him and for about a year prior to his death he was practically disabled physically. He passed away on June 15, 1889.

Mary Elizabeth Stafford, nee Wilson, was born in Springfield, Ohio, April 21st, 1834. She was named after a lineal ancestor, Elizabeth Bruce Wilson, daughter of Robert Bruce, a lineal descendant of King Robert Bruce of Scotland. She was a daughter of William W. Wilson, son of Margaret, a daughter of William and Elizabeth Bruce Wilson. Her father, William W. Wilson was a professor in Hanover College, Indiana. He died in the year 1844, at Lexington, Indiana.

The Wilson crest consisted of "a demi-wolf charged with three mullets, under the shield Res Non Verba" (facts not words). Her mother was Nancy Lowry, a daughter of David Lowry, the first settler of Bethel Township, Clark County, Ohio. The death of William W. Wilson left Nancy Lowry Wilson with six daughters and one son.

The family was possessed of no property save a few household goods at the death of William W. Wilson; and the mother, with this large family of young children, was compelled to return to Clark County where they located in a small house situated on the bank of Donnels Creek, the property of Mitchell Lowry, son of David Lowry. Here they lived for some years, when they removed to the hamlet of Donnelsville.

Her education was chiefly obtained in the country school which she attended until she arrived at the age of fifteen, when she attended school one winter in Springfield, a pupil of Chandler Robbins. A remarkable coincidence in connection with her life is the fact that she died in the same room she occupied when a pupil of Mr. Robbins. At the age of sixteen years she became a teacher and taught in what was known as the "Miller District", south of the hamlet of Enon, in Madriver Township, Clark County.

Francis M. Hagan, who was twice Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Clark County, Ohio, was one of her pupils in the Miller District. Later she taught in what was known as "Helmar School", in Bethel Township, two successive terms, terminating her connection with that school on December 24th, 1858, and marrying on December 29th, of the same year. At the date of her marriage her home was in Donnelsville, Clark County, Ohio. The old house in which her mother was then residing is still standing.



JAMES ROWLAND STAFFORD

At the age of 50 years



MARY ELIZABETH STAFFORD

At the age of 64 years

Immediately upon her marriage she moved to the farm then owned by my grandfather, James C. Stafford. His family at that time consisted of my father, Joseph Irvin Stafford and Martha Jane Stafford, she being a young child of about the age of nine years.

At this date the house in which they lived consisted of four rooms downstairs, with two upstairs and was considered a modern house in that day. It was located on the same spot of the present residence of the farm. My grandfather had built this house about the year, 1847.

She was highly intellectual and a great reader and continued her literary interests throughout her life. When a teacher in the public schools she was connected with a Lyceum in the hamlet of Donnelsville, where J. Warren Keifer, a young lawyer at that time, and Hugh Blair Wilson, her brother, who also was a lawyer, with other prominent members of the township, took an active part.

After her marriage she went with my father to the McKendree Church of which she later became a member and continued such membership until her death. She was a teacher for some years of the men's and women's class, having such intellectual men as Dr. John M. Thatcher, and others, members of the class.

She manifested great interest in the politics of the day and was well informed on the issues of every election. My father and mother were always great friends of General Keifer and, whenever he was assigned for a political speech at New Carlisle, I was generally taken by them to hear him speak. She was industrious in a remarkable degree and manifested a great interest in the affairs of my father and her children. She constantly assisted her children in their studies while pupils of Pike School. She strove to entertain her visitors and friends, and especially her relatives, who often visited our family.

She secured for me the first school I taught; her success in so doing was probably due to the fact that one of the members of the Board of Directors, was at one time her beau, and another member, her intimate friend.

The assistance and encouragement she gave me in my school days, and while a student of the law, remain fresh in my memory, and truly can I say, that whatever accomplishments I may have, or progress made in life, I owe chiefly to my mother.

After the death of my father her life was a lonely one and while she encouraged me in following my chosen profession, yet she longed for my companionship; and with that purpose in view she moved to Springfield where she and my sister, Edna B. Stafford and myself, for two years, resided together. Her change of location added little to her contentment and she returned to the farm where she had resided for many years.

Shortly after her return to the farm, a fatal disease attacked her which resulted in her demise on September 15th, 1897. Her last message to me was a request that I keep up the old home, care for the flowers and grounds, and keep fresh in my memory the place where she had spent so many happy years.

The midnight hour is with me as I close these poorly written lines on my good father and mother; alone in my study I gaze on the embers burning low which causes me to think of loved and cherished days of yore.

“A charm is in the embers’ roseate glow,
And in the lulling blaze’s old refrain,
That takes me back to scenes of long ago,
And makes me dream I am a boy again.”

As I sit and think of those days, they recall to my memory many acts of kindness and affection of our dear mother. In my dreams I see her, hear her gentle voice and feel the touch of her vanished hand. She was my truest and best friend and spared no effort in serving her family.

How we appreciated her and loved her too! She died too soon yet she faced the King of Terrors with remarkable courage. As I sat by her bedside and conversed with her on the evening before she died, she seemed to realize that her life’s journey was drawing to a close. She had no fear of death but regretted only her departure from her family.

I am older than she was when she died, yet still here I abide, and as I sit musing o’er my childhood days my mother returns to me as of years long ago. The sadness of the hour, in part, vanishes when I recount her many virtues and noble traits of character and her aim to leave a rich heritage to her children by an exemplary and well spent life.

James Rowland Stafford and Mary Elizabeth Stafford had four children, each of whom are living: Horace W. Stafford, of Springfield, Ohio; Fannie B. Stafford, who married Charles M. Freeman, of Tippecanoe City, Miami County, Ohio; they have one daughter, Frances R., who married Arthur Leighton; she is a highly educated woman, and for many years was instructor in different colleges; she has one child, Arthur Leighton Jr., who is the only great grand-child of J. Rowland Stafford; Edna Browning Stafford, who resides in Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio; and Anna F. Counts, of Springfield, Ohio, who married Dr. Charles W. Counts now deceased; the last named have one daughter, Dorothy Counts, of Springfield, Ohio, a nurse by profession and otherwise qualified as a business woman.

Joseph Irvin Stafford, son of James C. and Margaret R. Stafford, was born March 11th, 1834, in the log house of his father, in Pike Township, Clark County, Ohio, and died at his residence in New Carlisle, March 25th, 1916. He became the owner, at the death of his father, of the farm which was settled by Samuel Black in 1806.

On December 27th, 1860 he was married to Emily Scource. They had one child, Margaret Amelia Stafford, who married Dr. J. H. Cook, a resident of New Carlisle. On J. Irvin Stafford's marriage, he and his wife moved to their farm which was practically primeval forest, where they resided until the year 1876 when he and his family moved to New Carlisle and there resided during the remainder of his life. This farm at his death passed to the daughter, Margaret Amelia Cook who died in May, 1925. The sudden and unexpected death of Margaret Amelia Cook was a shock to the entire connection and her many acquaintances. She had many friends; was active in her church and took quite an interest in the social and literary societies of her village. She was extremely diplomatic and pursued a course in life to avoid having enemies. Her home was a place of welcome to her friends.

In his early years Joseph Irvin was a pupil at Pike School and attended Linden Hill Academy for a period of one year. In his younger days he learned the carpenter trade with his father and became a fine mechanic. He assisted his father in building the Methodist Church of New Carlisle; also, in the erection of many buildings throughout the township in which he resided. He was a member of Chapter No. 57, R. A. M., New Carlisle; member of council No. 30 R. & S. M., New Carlisle; member of Palestine Commandry No. 33 K. T. of Springfield, Ohio; and a member of Ohio Consistory A. A. S. Rite of Dayton, Ohio. He was also a member of Caritas Lodge No. 505 I. O. O. F., of New Carlisle; and New Carlisle Encampment No. 222 of the same order.

He manifested great interest in these orders, believing that they augured good to mankind and encouraged true fellowship among its members. He held different positions in some of these orders, yet he preferred to aid in promoting others, rather than to seek official position for himself.

He was a great reader and, until within a few days of his demise, he kept pace with all matters of public interest, and, until his physical strength failed him, he manifested a keen interest in public and business affairs, especially in the adornment of the New Carlisle cemetery. He was an active partisan in politics, but only when he believed that the representative of his party was a man of integrity and best fitted for the position sought.

He made no discrimination among his fellowmen who were upright and honest, whether rich or poor, high or low. He avoided

notoriety, preferring the simpler and common walks of life. He sympathized greatly with those in poverty or distress and never failed to contribute to the wants and needs of such upright citizen.

His chief pride was to live a plain, unostentatious and honest life and to command the respect and friendship of his fellowmen. A friend once acquired was never by him forsaken. The latter years of his life were ones of great mental and physical suffering yet, through all these years, he patiently awaited the hour of his final summons.

He was a member of McKendree Church. He and his faithful companion, for almost fifty-five years, lived and worked together in perfect harmony. He greatly appreciated her acts of kindness to him through his years of ~~helpfulness and misery~~. She died July 14th, 1921.

In this family was a young girl, Anna Fisher, a niece of Emily Stafford. She went to live with J. Irvin and his wife when a small child and resided with them until her marriage to J. Harvey Black.

She never forgot the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Stafford, and reciprocated in every way within her power. She regarded Margaret Amelia Cook as a sister and was very much attached to her.

Her husband, J. Harvey Black, has been one of the active and estimable men of the community and has manifested as much, if not more, interest in the reunions than any other member.

Martha Jane Stafford, a daughter of James C. and Margaret R. Stafford, was born October 31st, 1848 in the new house built by her father. In her youthful days she was a pupil at Pike School, and later, attended the Springfield Seminary for a period of two and one-half years. After the death of her father, and until her marriage, she made her home with her brother, James Rowland Stafford. She is the only survivor of her family.

On January 12th, 1871 she married Dr. Fred B. McNeal, a resident of Miami County and they moved to Peru, Indiana, where they resided for the period of one year but, owing to the malarial fever which was then prevalent in that locality, and of which she was affected, she and her husband moved to New Carlisle where he engaged in the practice of medicine for five years, when they moved to their farm in Miami County. Later they sold that farm and purchased another one near Alcony, Ohio, where they lived for many years. On the sale of this last farm she and her husband located in Troy, Miami County, Ohio, in the year 1900. Her husband Dr. F. B. McNeal died November 30th, 1910.

On February 22nd, 1864 she became a member of the McKendree Association. In her early years she was one of the sociable girls of the neighborhood and few were the parties or entertainments

that she did not attend. She has always manifested great interest in the Stafford and Black Reunions, and is probably better informed on the genealogy of the Stafford families than any other person living. She possesses a fine memory and can refer to many incidents in connection with the early settlements of the Staffords and Blacks.

Prior to the War of the Rebellion she frequently accompanied her father on his trips with horse and buggy to visit the relatives of Indiana, where they were most cordially received.

Throughout her life she has been greatly attached to the McKendree Association and, at the home-coming of that organization in 1926, she took an active part, and found in this volume is her address on that occasion. She is an active member of Eastern Star Lodge; the Altrusian Club and Women's Relief Corps of Troy, Ohio.

She is a constant reader and keeps pace with the news of the day. She has a wide circle of friends and is always a welcome visitor among them.

Dr. F. B. McNeal was a fine physician and manifested great interest in politics.

He was a 32nd degree member of the Masonic Lodge of Columbus, Ohio. He was a Republican and, for five years and a half, held the office of Food and Dairy Commissioner in Ohio. During this period of time he and his wife formed a large acquaintance with the public men of the day, and others throughout the state.

He enlisted as a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, serving in the 94th O. V. I. and was first Lieutenant of Company E.

Dr. McNeal was an efficient and conscientious man while in public office, and left behind him a fine record. He is buried in the family lot in New Carlisle cemetery.

The deceased members of my family, except my grandfather, grandmother, and Samuel B. Stafford, are buried in New Carlisle cemetery where rest many of the Staffords and Blacks.

The traveler as he enters the well-kept roadway leading to this "Silent City" and, viewing the beautiful American Elms which cast the shadow of their majestic branches across his pathway, marvels at the scenic beauty he beholds; and as his thoughts turn to words, he speaks in praise of those, who planned that nature's product, for generations to follow, will adorn the silent way to the place held sacred in the hearts of many.

Nature has created it a spot of matchless beauty and the handiwork of man, with marvelous skill and taste, has made it a hallowed place. Its undulating grounds, beautiful drives and avenues, and overhanging trees of rarest type; its verdure of grass; and flowers of finest hue, bring comfort and consolation to the visitors who linger about the graves of their relatives and friends. The sweet song of the birds, as though to cheer the sad hearts of those who fre-

quent this spot, is heard, as they bask in the sunshine of the May days, and welcome the visitors to the place which nature has provided as the last resting place of our loved ones.

A beautiful granite monument marks the spot of individual interest and with hundreds of others adds indescribable beauty to the picturesque "City of the Dead." Here lie many soldiers and noble men and women who have made our Country, and place of habitation one of happiness and unexcelled by any other locality.

END

The Family Tree

John Stafford
of Staffordshire
England—1785

Jane Stafford
married
Adam Johnson

Ralph Stafford
married
Jane Kane

Nancy Stafford
married
John Johnson

Thomas Stafford
married
Barbara Irwin

James Stafford
married
Nancy Eaton

Edward Stafford
married
Margaret Eaton

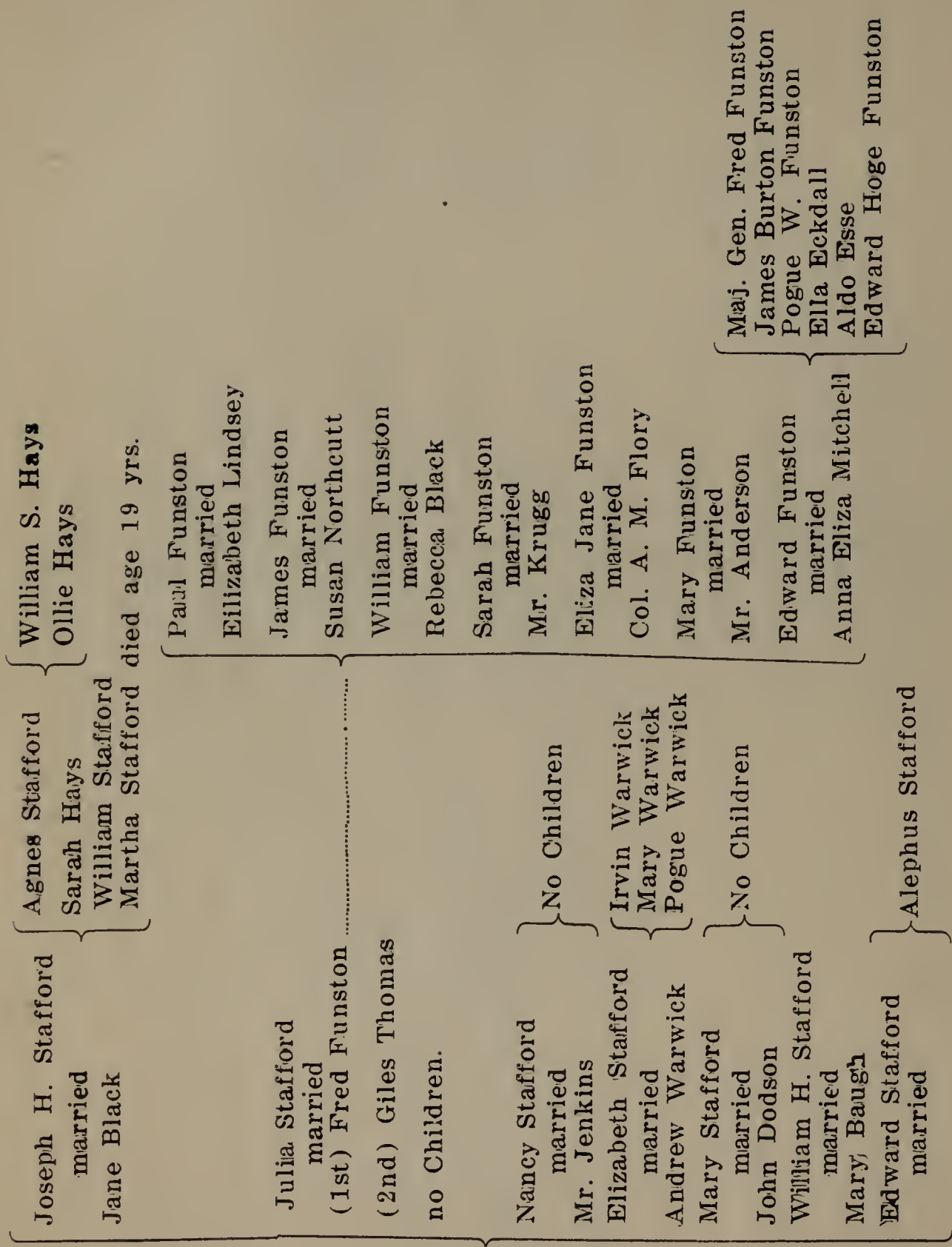
Mary Stafford
married
James Robinson

John Stafford
married
Elizabeth Fair

Family of John Stafford and Elizabeth Fair Stafford	{ Thomas Stafford married Ruth Neel	{ Elizabeth Stafford married John Stafford	Elizabeth Stafford	Elizabeth Stafford
			Betsy Stafford	Betsy Stafford
			John Stafford	John Stafford
			William N. Stafford	Geo. W. Stafford, Jr. (Wife's name not known to me)
			Alexander Stafford	
			Granville Stafford	Charles Stafford
			Oscar F. Stafford	
			Mary A. Sharp	James F. Stafford
			George W. Stafford married	Hattie Morse Paul Reed Anna Shipman Jno. W. Stafford
			Rachel Stelle	Alma M. Cleveland George K. West O. W. Stafford Eliza R. Freed Anna C. Whitney Horace B. Stafford Pearl Sowell
P. S.—Names of wives of children of Geo. Stafford are not known to me.	{	{	P. S.—Names of wives of children of Geo. Stafford are not known to me.	John W. Stafford
	{	{	William A. Stafford	Chas. O. Stafford Odes A. Stafford
			Sarah Alice Stafford	
			George W. Stafford	
			Robert Oscar Stafford	
			Chas. P. Stafford	
			Eddie A. Stafford	
			Mary R. Stafford Rachel E. Stafford	

James Stafford	married
Sarah Hoge	
Joseph Stafford	married
Mary Saylor	
Nancy Stafford	married
Daniel Hoge	
Catharine Stafford	married
William Mitchell	
Edward Stafford	married
Kissiah Mitchell	
Margaret Stafford	married
(1st) Michael Williams	
(2nd) Isiah Givens	
George Stafford, Sr.	married
Catharine Fair	
Jane Stafford	married
Frederick Williams	
Ralph Stafford, Sr.	married
Catharine Saylor	
Susan Stafford	married
Ralph Stafford	
Thomas Stafford	married
Catharine Williams	

James Stafford
and
Nancy Eaton Stafford



Family of
 James Stafford
 and
 Sarah Hoge
 Stafford

Family of
Joseph Stafford
and
Mary Saylor
Stafford

<p>James Stafford married Mary Forgy 1825 C. V. C.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Stafford married George J. Stafford Matilda Stafford married John A. Collins Caroline Stafford married Frank B. Jacobs</p>	<p>Joel Stafford Emma S. Black Mary M. Deaton Anna Sutton</p>	<p>Clifford Stafford Elizabeth Trostel</p>
	<p>Gussie Lowe</p>	<p>Dayton Freeman Chas. M. Freeman</p>	<p>Francis Leighton Bernard Freeman William Freeman Mary E. Freeman</p>
	<p>Sophia Stafford married Isaac Freeman</p>	<p>Walter Freeman</p>	<p>Helen Tenney Harold Tenney</p>
	<p>Margaret Stafford married John J. Mitchell George P. Stafford married 1st wife Ann Wakey 2nd wife 3rd wife</p>	<p>Marvin Mitchell Homer Mitchell Horace Mitchell Stanley Mitchell Roger Mitchell Belmer Mitchell Elmer Mitchell Reuben Mitchell Mary Barton Blanche Mitchell</p>	<p>(Continued on page 124)</p>

(Continued)

124
Family of
Joseph Stafford
and
Mary Saylor Stafford

Eliza Jane Stafford married 1st: Josiah Inskip 2nd: Amos Curl	Pearl	Harriett Katharine Franklin K. Edwin L. Carrie Edith Herbert Dr. Harry H. Stafford	Herbert Myrtle Cleveland Forrest I. Stafford Leroy Stafford Carl Stafford Mary Wolfsner No children
William Stafford married Harriette Steele	Archibald Stafford married Mary E. Smith	Elizabeth K. married Jacob Z. Repp William T. Stafford married Jennie Narvel Louise Stafford married John Clement Shaner Albert Ralph Stafford married Annie Jackson Ada Viola Stafford married Robert Deardoff Archibald Stafford married Myrtle Asbury John Edward Stafford married Helen Worley	Albert Stafford Regenia Stafford Archibald Stafford No children Paul Stafford Florence Shewalter Ada B. Stafford Robert J. Stafford Evelyn M. Branon Helen L. Stafford Blanche Stafford Marjorie Stafford June Stafford

(Continued on page 125.)

(Continued.)

Family of
Joseph Stafford
and
Mary Saylor Stafford

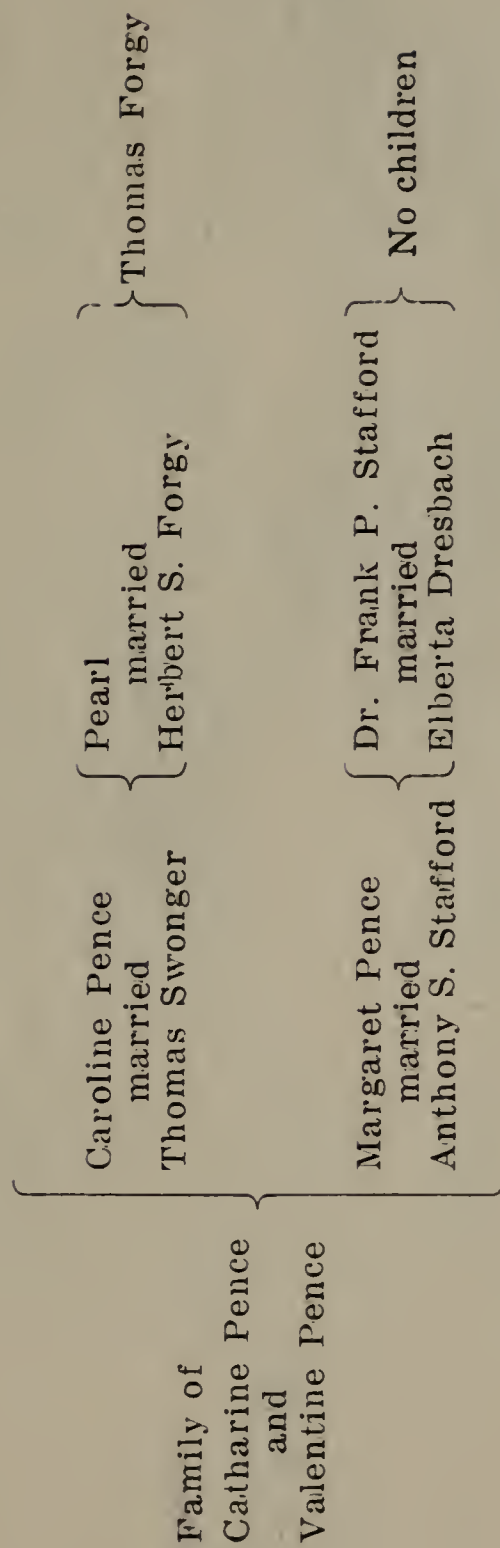
{	William Stafford	{	Leona Stafford	{	Florence Alexander
	married		married		
	Minerva Smith		Charles Stafford, deceased		
			Zula Stafford		Henry Slanter
			married		William Slanter
			Perry M. Slanter		
			Lillian May Stafford		Jean Winklejohn
			married		Robert Stafford
			Clifford Lippincott		
			Blanche Stafford		Donald Moore
			married		Richard Moore
			Emerson V. Moore		
			Burton Lowman		Howard Lowman
			married		Marguerite
			Bertha Smith		
			Harriet May Lowman		No children
			married		
			William Young		
			Joel Lowman		
			Garrett Lowman		
			Beatty Fuller		
			William Fuller		
			Minnie		
			Samuel		
			Elizabeth		
			Clyde Fuller		

Family of
George Stafford, Sr.
and
Catherine Fair Stafford

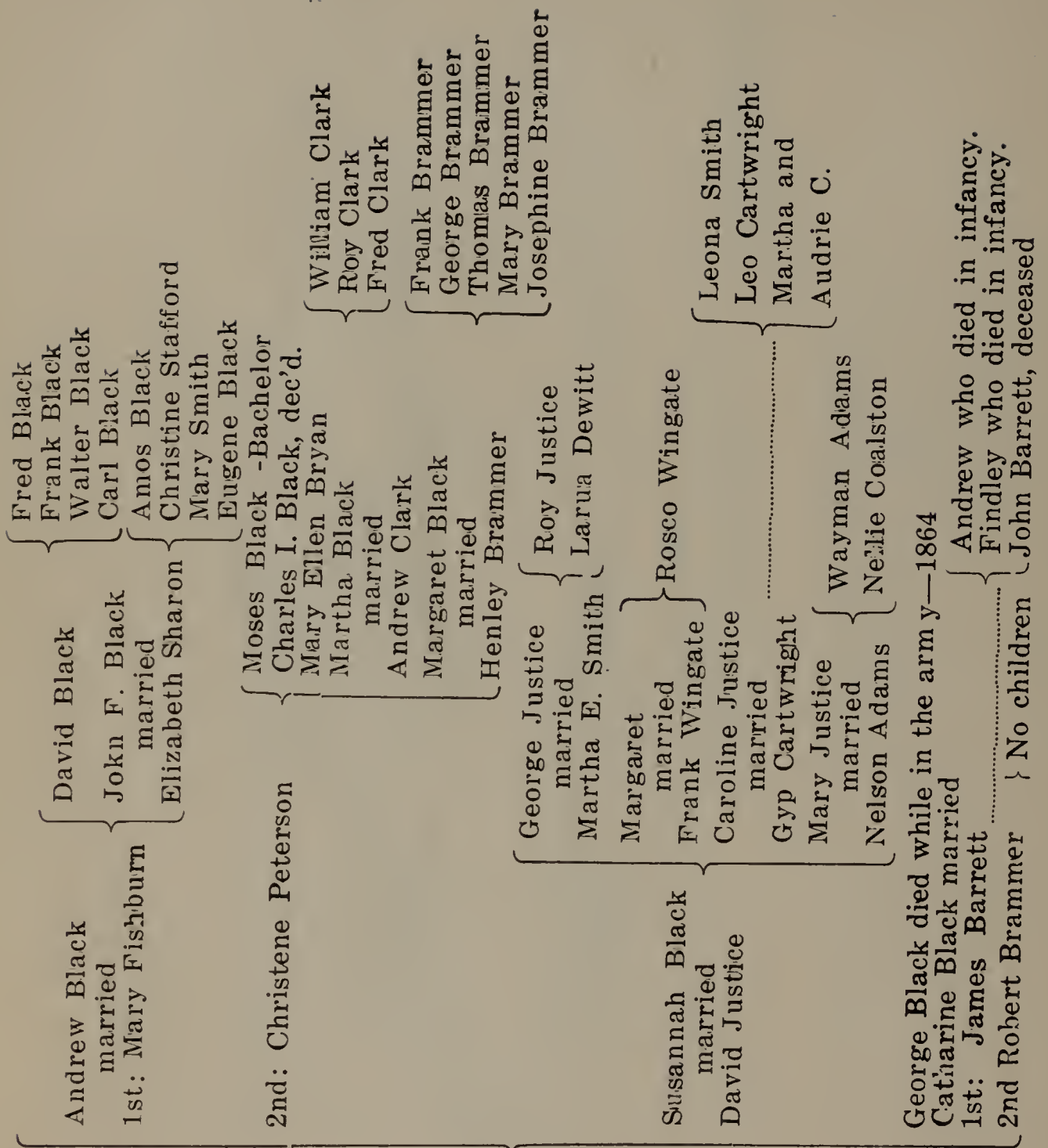
Elizabeth Stafford, known as "Betsy"—never married
George Stafford, Jr., married Susan McKinny
John Stafford married Elizabeth Stafford
Nancy Stafford died in infancy
Catherine Stafford married Valentine Pence
Margaret Stafford married John Black
Ruthy Stafford married William Black
Ralph Stafford married Jane Black
Findley Stafford married Catherine Mitchell
Joseph Stafford married (1st) Eve Stafford
(2nd) Amarilla Dinsmore
Susan Stafford died in infancy
James C. Stafford married Margaret R. Black

Family of George Stafford, Jr. and Susan Stafford	{	Samuel Mc. Stafford	{	No children	{	Lucille Durlinger
		married		Susan Combs		Lois Combs—deceased
		Elizabeth Serviss				Howard Combs
		Abarilla Stafford		Julia Johnson Stafford		Lawrence Stafford
		married				Dean Stafford
		David Johnson				Browning Stafford
		Robert Stafford				
		married				
		1st: Mary Black		Cora Jones		
		2nd: Jeanetta Johnson				

Family of John Stafford and Elizabeth Stafford	Margaret Stafford married John Verity	No children	
	Catharine Stafford married John J. Stafford	William Stafford Thomas Stafford Clara Ulrick Edith Blessinger	
	George F. Stafford married Catharine Black	Alice Charles Stafford married Ella Stitzel	Buhleau Bessie Roger
	Samuel E. Stafford married Margaret Saylor	Seratha married Charles Houser	
	Joseph W. Stafford married Mary Leffel	George Stafford—deceased Olive married Hugh McCulloch Florence Leffel Wallace	Mary E. Wallace Fred M. Wallace
	Sarah A. Stafford married Samuel Gregory	Ralph Gregory married Grace Mansfield	Catharine Mary Elizabeth Ralph, Jr Samuel Margaret



Family of
Margaret Stafford
Black
and
John Black



Margaret Jane married		
1st: Allen Abbott		
2nd: Dudley Hause		
3rd: Cyrus St. John		
Susan E. Black married	Mary Emma Pace Williams	
William Pace	William E. Pace	
James Black married		Emma Black married Edward Holcroft
1st: Catharine Fishburn		Ruthy E. married John Moore
		Charles Black
2nd: Elizabeth Brammer		Hattie Black died in infancy
Catherine Black married	Florence Brammer Gaston	Findley E. Black married Emma Scott
Aaron Brammer	Charles Brammer	William E. Black
	Laura Brammer Tuscan	Corry Black
Sarah Ellen Black died in infancy		
Marietta Black married		
John Richey		William E. Richey married Corry Kershner
		Elizabeth Richey married Edward Moore
		Ann Richey married Gus Bartlett
Selina E. Black married	William Brammer	Elmer Richey married Nettie Dill
Henley Brammer	Married	James Richey married Irene Johnson
	Clara Peterson	Carl Richey married Verda Bartlett
Martha Black died in infancy		Ruthy Richey married Dr. Gus Esh
Annetta Black married	Laura Younts	
George Younts	married	
	Chas. Ricket	
William H. Black married		Tullie L. Black married Miss Mendenhall
Emma Miller		William Murray Black

Family of

1 Ruthy Stafford Black
1 and William Black

Family of
 Ralph Stafford, Jr.
 married
 Jane Black

{	{	George A. Stafford married Sarah Zainer	David Stafford Cyrus Stafford Roy Stafford Emma Stafford Brammer
		James Stafford married Caroline Russel	{ Laura Stafford married Dr. Grant Powers } Caroline Lucile Powers
		John Stafford married Rachael Walburn	{ No children }
		William Stafford married Jennie Knox	{ Leroy Stafford—died in infancy Nora Stafford St. John }
		Susan Stafford married Enoch Witt	{ Roy Witt }

Family of
Findley Stafford
and Catherine Stafford

Clara Stafford died in infancy	
Lauretta Stafford died in infancy	
Edwin Stafford died in infancy	
Joseph H. Stafford	{ Ross Stafford Walter Stafford Florence Stafford Kneisley Caroline Stafford Wilson Grace Stafford Peoples
married	
Laura Black	
Albert Eaton Stafford—Bachelor	
Laura C. Stafford	{ No children
married	
Tullie J. Scarff	
Charles Pence Staford	{ No children
married	
Margaret Shook	

Family of Joseph Stafford 1st wife—Eve Stafford	Catherine Elizabeth married Francis Hobbs	{ Joseph Wm. Hobbs Rowland P. Hobbs
	James Rowland Stafford	{ Minnie O. Stafford Syphers
	1st wife—Nancy E. Sharon	{ Joseph Stafford died in infancy
	2nd wife—Elizabeth McDaniel	{ No children
2nd wife—Amarilla Dinsmore	3rd wife—Sarah C. Anderson	{ Ruth McDonald Edna Grice Roxie E. Stafford
	Eve Stafford married Nathan Vincent	{ Joseph Wm. Vincent Francis Marion Vincent Bertha Vincent Franks Pearl Vincent Bales Harry Vincent James Vincent Ethel Vincent Davis David Riley Vincent Findley Vincent
	Bertha E. Stafford—died at age of 14 years. Martha Stafford—died at age of 8 years.	
	Riley Stafford married Nancy Boyd	{ Bessie Stafford William Stafford Susan Stafford Nellie Gontz Flay Welbrook Charles Stafford who died aged 2 years

Family of
 Ralph Stafford, Sr.,
 and
 Catherine Saylor Stafford

135

George J. Stafford married Elizabeth Stafford	Joel Stafford married Josephine Dunton Emma S. Black Mary M. Deaton Anna Sutton	Clifford Stafford
Jacob Stafford married Sarah Forgy	Mary Stafford married James Johnson Melissa Buswell William Stafford married Samantha Saylor Algernon Stafford married Florence Gilbert	Frank J. Johnson
John W. Stafford married 1st—Ellen Mitchell	Corwin Stafford married Miss McNeal Anthony S. Stafford married Maggie Pence	Wm. E. Stafford Charles Stafford
2nd—Nannie Carns	No children	Dr. Frank P. Stafford
James Stafford married Margaret North	Ollie Stafford William E. Stafford Verley Stafford Louisa Stafford	Chas. Buswell Fannie Buswell Lillie Buswell Scott Buswell
Samuel Stafford married Melissa Cory	Hannah Stafford Smith David Stafford Nannie J. Maxwell Elnathan Stafford Martha Neff, known as "Pet"	Herbert Stafford

(Continued on page 136.)

(Continued)

Family of

Ralph Stafford, Sr.,

and

Catherine Saylor Stafford

{ Nancy Stafford
married
{ Howard Mitchell

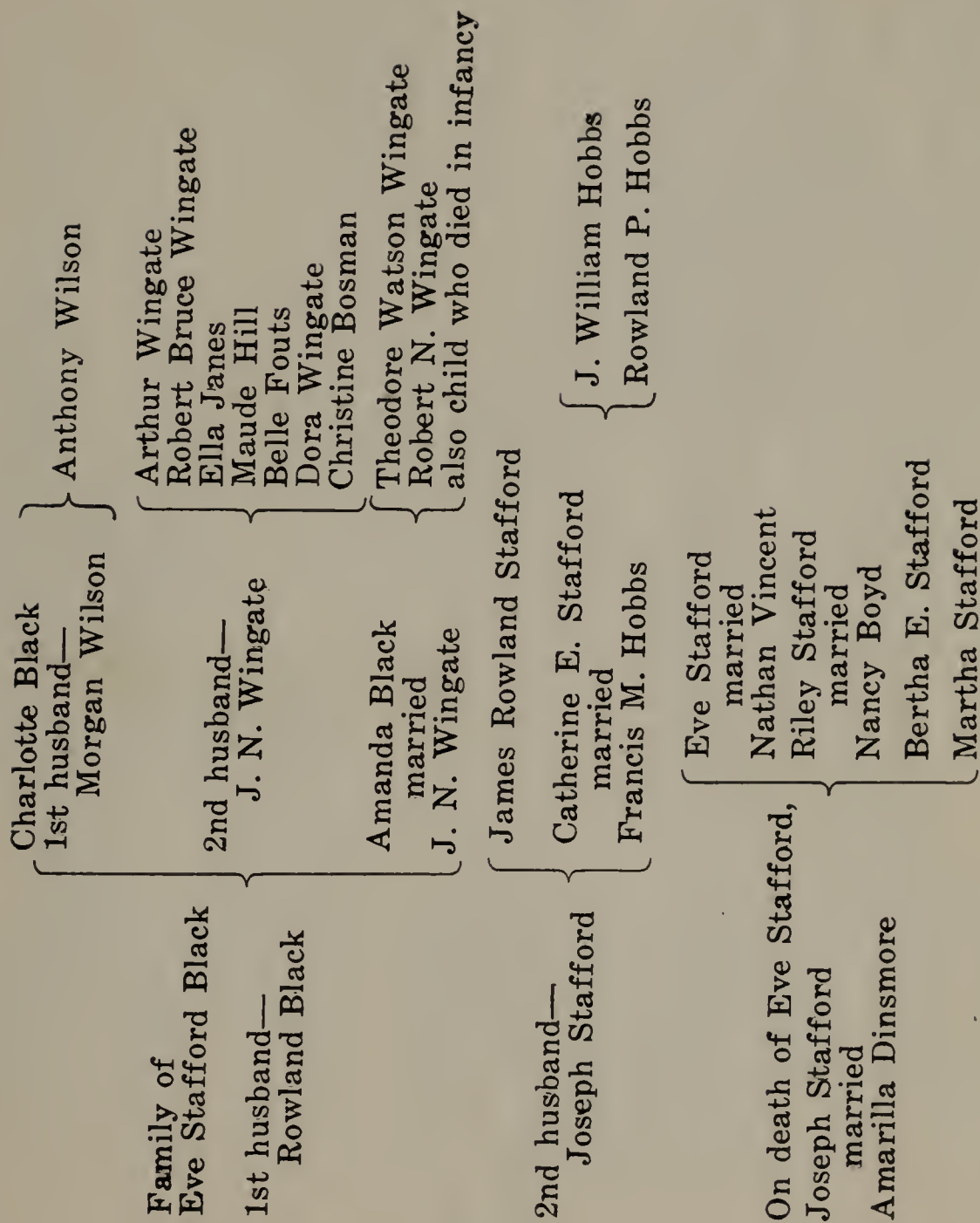
Catherine Mitchell married Findley Stafford	{ Lauretta Stafford Clara Stafford Edwin Stafford Joseph H. Stafford Albert E. Stafford Laura C. Scarff
Ellen Mitchell married William Robinson	{ Asbury Robinson Kittie Shump
Malinda Mitchell married Charles Voorhees	{ Ella Fross
	{ Marcellus Mitchell { Chas. Mitchell Carrie Mitchell
	Allister Mitchell—died in infancy Charley Mitchell—died in infancy Viola Mitchell { Bessie married { Ethel Peter Hale { John
James Q. Mitchell married Susan Moore	{ John Mitchell } Brownie, Nellie, Lula Ruth Mitchell married } No children George Perry William Mitchell } John, Howard, Emma May Mitchell married } No children Chas. Sawyer
Joseph Mitchell married Sarah Saylor	{ Wilbert H. Mitchell Darius Clinton Mitchell Alpheas S. Mitchell Joseph Reed Mitchell

(Continued on page 137.)

(Continued) Family of Ralph Stafford, Sr., and Catherine Saylor Stafford	{	Eve Stafford married 1st—Rowland Black 2nd—Joseph Stafford	{	Amanda Black Charlotte Black
				George Thomas married Grizzie Black
				Ernest Thomas Bertha Frank May
				Charles Thomas married Jeanette Beal
				Mable Ursula Eulalah
				Giles Thomas married wife's name not known
				Margaret Olive
		Margaret Stafford married William Thomas		William Thomas married Retta Miller
				Newton Thomas
				Samuel Thomas married Sallie Cannabaker
				Fielding Jane
				Martha Thomas married one son—name unknown daughter—name unknown
				Mr. Olinger Annetta Thomas married names of children if any, are unknown
				Strite Bailey
				Joseph W. Stafford
				Samuel E. Stafford
		Elizabeth Stafford married John Stafford		Catherine Stafford
				Margaret Verity
				Sarah Gregory
				George F. Stafford

Family of
Elizabeth Stafford
and
John Stafford

Joseph W. Stafford married Mary Leffel	{ Olive McCulloch George Stafford—deceased Florence Wallace { Mary Elizabeth Frederick M.
Samuel E. Stafford married Margaret Taylor	{ Seretha Hauser
George F. Stafford married Catherine Black	{ Alice Houck Charles Stafford
Sallie Stafford married Samuel Gregory	{ Samuel Jr.—died in infancy { Samuel Ralph Gregory { Eugene married { Elizabeth Grace Mansfield { Katharine Margaret
Catharine Stafford married John Stafford	{ William Stafford Thomas Stafford Clara Ulrick } Estella Bratton Edith Blessinger
Margaret Stafford married John Verity	{ No children



Family of Thomas Stafford and Catherine Williams Stafford	Nancy Stafford married Samuel Sprinkle	{ Susan C. married 1st—Obediah Priest 2nd—Arnold Kester	{ Mary C. Kester Alma Priest—deceased Ida C. Moorehead } No children	{ Alnont E. Kester Ella Kissinger Anna Bucher
	Margaret Stafford died in infancy			
	Elizabeth Stafford married Cyrus Pence	{ Catherine Jeanette married John S. Priest George Sprinkle married Sarah Moore	{ Clinton H. Priest Minnie M. Bell Nellie Kester Mary Clingan Samuel Sprinkle Carrie Brooks George Sprinkle	{ Walter Bell
	James Stafford married Lucinda Pence			
	Matilda Stafford married Mr. Sam Mitchell			
	Susan Stafford married Michael Pence			
	Thomas Stafford, Jr. married Jane Black	{ Samuel Ellen Sylvester Joseph	{ William Stafford Thomas Stafford Clara Ulrick Edith Blessinger	
	John P. Stafford married Catherine Stafford			
	Henry W. Stafford married Mary Allen	{ John Stafford who married Ida Peters Eliza married Archie Potter Samuel married Emma Powell Grant married Maggie Grice		

(Continued on page 141.)

(Continued)

Family of
Thomas Stafford
and
Catherine Williams Stafford

141

Joseph Stafford married Mary J. Pence	Willis married Sarah Shaneberger	
	George married Mattie McCoy	
Catharine Stafford married Wm. Breckbill	Joseph E.	
	Pence married Nellie Petty	
George W. Stafford married Nancy Eaton Stafford	Edith Stafford	
Lucinda Stafford married Michael Snyder	Cyrus Stafford	Harley Stafford
	married Martha Fortney	married Edna Robb <i>Hollis Allen</i>
William Stafford wife's name unknown	Ellen Stafford	} No children
	married Rev. Wm. J. Baker	
	Louisa Jane Stafford	who died in infancy
Thomas Snyder and Laura—twins		
	Elizabeth married William Peter	
Michael E. married Anna Knaffenberger		
	Rebecca married Wm. Franklin	
James Stafford	Henry Stafford who died in infancy	
James Stafford		
	married Mary Waitt	Frank Stafford
	} Anna—husband's name unknown	

Family of Catherine Mitchell and William Mitchell	Wm. S. Mitchell married Mary R. Robinson	Milton G. Mitchell married Celestia Iliff Elizabeth Mitchell married George Briar	Fern Mitchell married Otto Benson Mildred married Raymond Smith
	Eleanor Mitchell married John Helvie	J. Findley Helvie G. Moler Helvie Louisa Nishwitz Malinda Hatten Valeria Spade	No children No children Oscar Nishwitz No children
	Zacharia Mitchell married Cynthia Fuller	Robert Mitchell Wm. Mitchell Crella married John Mock Maggie married Wm. S. Black Emma married George F. Ream	No children No children
	Elizabeth Mitchell married Benjamin Robinson	G. Whitten Deaton Rev. W. Albert Deaton Frank Deaton George Deaton	
	Malinda Mitchell married Levi Deaton	Fielding Widner Lida Widner Maggie Widner	
	Susan Mitchell married Wm. Widner		
	Wilson S. Mitchell married Charlotte Gearhart		
	Samuel Mitchell married Malinda Stafford		
	George J. Mitchell married Amanda Robinson		

Family of James C. Stafford and Margaret R. Stafford	Samuel B. Stafford—died in infancy	
	James Rowland Stafford married Mary Elizabeth Wilson	<div> <div>Horace W. Stafford</div> <div> <div>Fannie B. Freeman</div> <div>Edna B. Stafford</div> <div>Anna F. Counts</div> </div> <div> <div>Frances Leighton</div> <div>Dorothy Counts</div> </div> </div>
	Joseph Irvin Stafford married Emily Scourse	<div> <div>Margaret Amelia Cook</div> <div>now deceased—no children</div> </div>
	Martha Jane Stafford married Dr. Fred B. McNeal	<div> <div>No children</div> </div>

